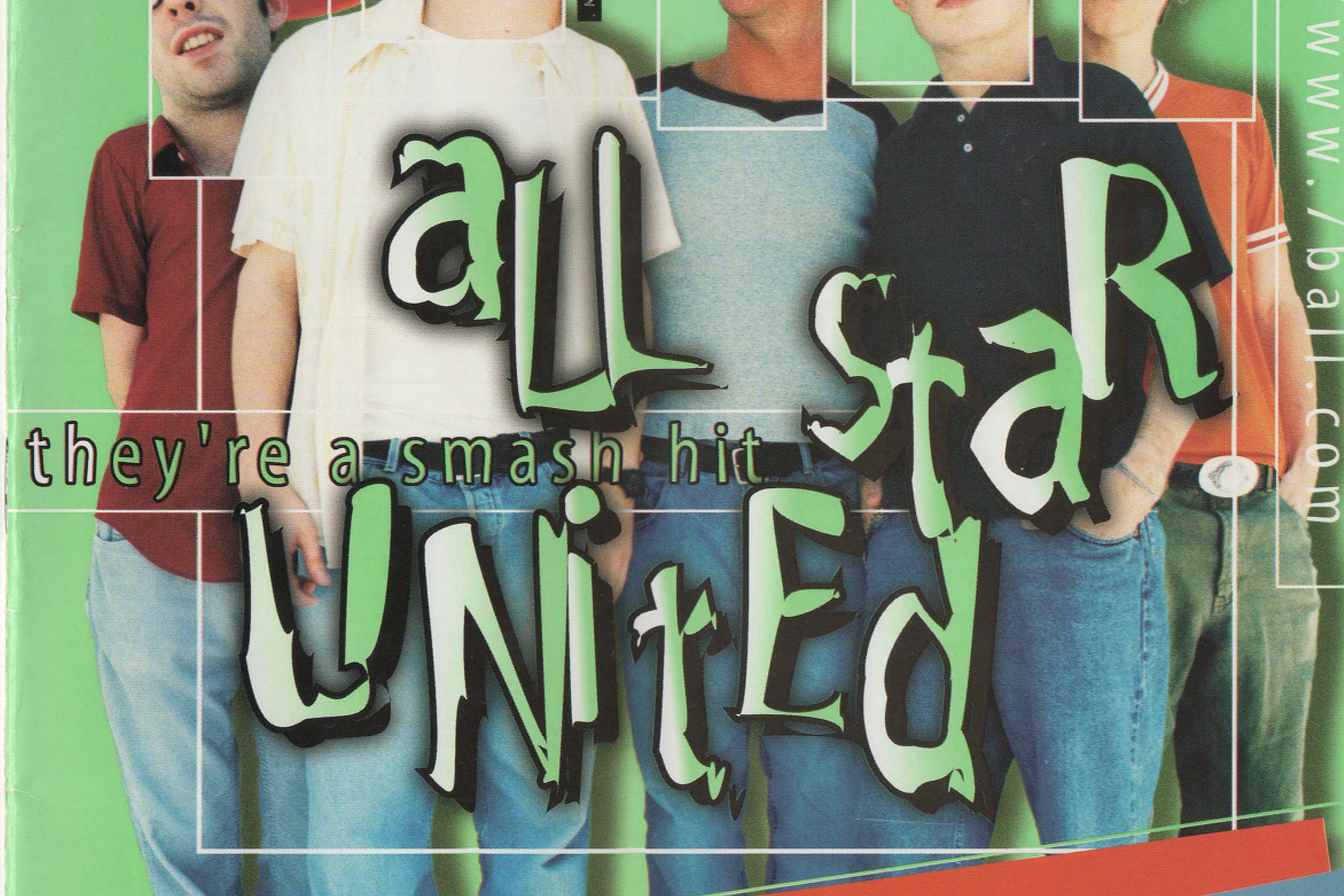
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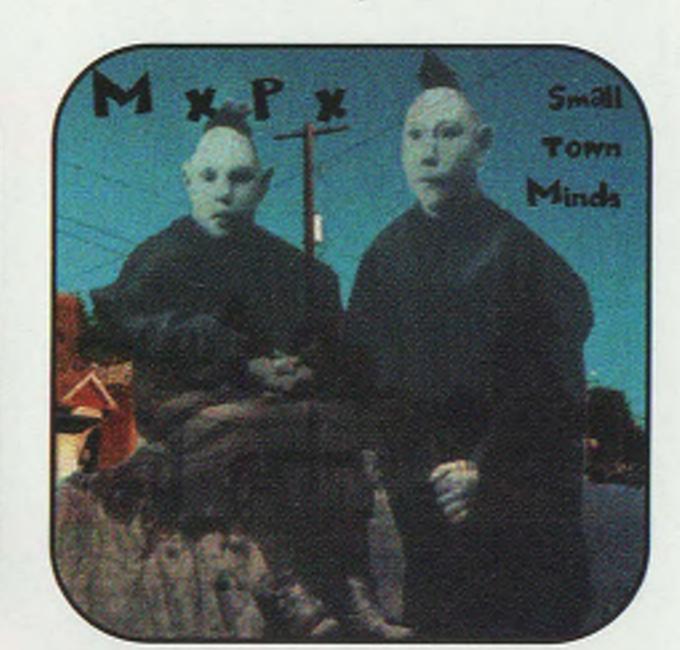


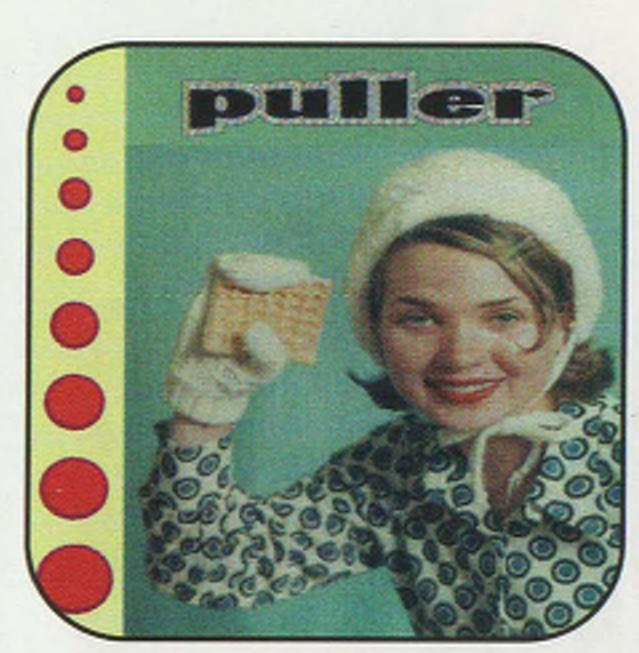
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THE CURIOUS FOOLS HAVE GOTTEN WORLD). THESE KINDS OF ARTIST BECAUSE I'M ASKING YOU TO, IF BACK THE RIGHTS TO THEIR FAB DEFINITELY NEED MORE ATTENTION YOU CAN, PUT HAPPY BIRTHDAY RECORD READ, WHICH SHOWED UP AND Y'ALL ARE DOING A GREAT OF KEVIN-SOMEWHERE! IT'S FOR HIS IN ABOUT EIGHT RECORD STORES GIVING IT TO THEM! LAST YEAR, AND THEY HOPE TO RE-RELEASE IT THROUGH BETTER CHANNELS IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

HAWKS ABOUT NOT PUTTING DC MAKES TWIN PEAKS LOOK LIKE TALK AND JARS OF CLAY IN YOUR NEWHART. MAGAZINE. SURE, THEY'RE NOT

MICHAEL MASUNAS THEY'RE GREAT. CHICAGO, IL

OF JUDAH? I KNOW Y'ALL HAVE I DISAGREED WITH TH FOLLOW JESUS, ENJOY MUSIC, 'CAUSE YOU ARE THE RULERS OF THAT WAS GIVEN STEVE MISNER MODERN ROCK, SO, ANYWAY, THEY EVERYBODYDUCK DEBUT NEW LONDON, MO JUST GOT A RECORD CONTRACT. THINK IT'S GREAT A CH NOW, HERE'S THE POP QUIZ: 1) ROCK BAND OUT EDITOR SEZ: WELL, STEVE, WE WHAT WAS THEIR NAME CHANGED WRITES BLATANT HEAR THAT DIGHAYZOOSE ARE TO? 2) WHAT IS THE NAME OF THE LYRICS ABOUT JESUS CHRIST AND STILL WORKING ON A SPECIAL ALBUM AND WHEN WILL IT BE IN THE REALITIES OF THE CHRISTIAN PRAISE & WORSHIP PROJECT (NO STORES? PERSONALLY, I THINK LIFE. DOUBT IN THAT PECULIAR STYLE THEY ROCK. TELL YOU WHAT, IF YOU THEY CAN ONLY CALL THEIR OWN), ANSWER ME I'LL SUBSCRIBE TO WHICH THEY WILL THEN PROBA- YOUR MAGAZINE (SINCE IT'S THE BLY SHOP TO THE RECORD LABELS. MOST AWESOME MAG IN THE

EDITOR SEZ: AH, JANA, YOU HEY! YOUR MAGAZINE ROX, AND I SHOULD HAVE TRIED SOMETHING (I'M 14 AND I LOVE TO SKATEBOARD) REALLY APPRECIATE THE FACT THAT TOUGH: THE BAND F.K.A. JUDAH YOU PRINT BOTH THE POSITIVE AND (AND RELEASED THE INDIE PRO-NEGATIVE LETTERS! BUT THIS GUY JECT LAY IT DOWN) HAVE HELLO, MY NAME IS DARIAH, AND I IN YOUR NOVEMBER/DECEMBER CHANGED THEIR COLLECTIVE THINK YOUR MAGAZINE RULZ! ISSUE WENT TOO FAR. MY FAVORITE NAME TO BETWEEN THIEVES AND PLEASE PRINT MY PICTURE, I GROUP IS DC TALK, AND I DON'T SIGNED WITH TATTOO. ALTHOUGH ALWAYS WANTED TO BE IN A MAG-THINK HE SHOULD BE TEARING THERE WAS NO WORKING TITLE AZINE ... THEM OR STEVEN CURTIS FOR THE RECORD AT PRESS TIME (I CHAPMAN, JARS OF CLAY AND SUGGESTED "SNEEZEGUARD AT THE DAKODA MOTOR CO. DOWN! WE OBSIDIAN", THE BAND IS EXCIT-SHOULD BUILD UP ALL OF THESE ED ABOUT WORKING WITH PRO-CHRISTIAN BANDS. THEY NEED OUR DUCER TEDD T., WHO IS HELPING I LOVE YOUR MAGAZINE, I ONLY SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGEMENT. THEM CARVE A LEANER, TOUGHER WISH IT WERE LONGER AND WE NEED TO SHOW THE LOVE OF SOUND THAN THEIR TECHNO MONTHLY, YOUR COVERAGE OF THE JESUS, EVEN IF WE DON'T LIKE THE ROOTS WOULD SUGGEST. YOU CAN CHRISTIAN MODERN ROCK UNDER-MUSIC THE BANDS PLAY. THANX! MEET THE BAND ON THE UPCOM- GROUND IS TRULY DEFINITIVE. I ALANA JARA ING VIDEO COLLECTION, TATTOO HOPE YOU GUYS CAN KEEP DOING DULUTH, MN VIDEO HOOPLAH, WHICH WILL IT. ALSO INCLUDE THE CHOIR, YOU HAVE A GREAT MAGAZINE, BUT COMMON CHILDREN, AND ASSORT-PLEASE DON'T LISTEN TO BO ED MACABRE NONSENSE THAT

'HARD CORE MODERN ROCK' LIKE YOU GUYS WRITE THE BEST PLANKEYE OR SKILLET, BUT THEY CHRISTIAN MUSIC MAGAZINE ARE GREAT BANDS WITH GREAT AROUND, SO FAR, YOU HAVE DONE MUSIC THAT COMPLETELY GLORI- MOST OF MY FAVORITE GROUPS, FIES GOD. AND THANKS FOR THE LIKE PLANKEYE, BIG TENT REVIVAL, SKILLET INTERVIEW. THEY ARE ONE LUXURY AND PRAYER CHAIN. I

CLE ON THE SWITTING EDDIES.

BRAD LYDA PHOENIX, AZ

WELL, I'M WRITING THIS LETTER BIRTHDAY ON DEC. 12. HE WILL BE JANA WELLS "FREAK" 16 YEARS OLD, WOW!! OH, YEAH, I TYLER, TX LOVE YOUR MAGAZINE AND THINK IT'S THE BEST!! THE VERY BEST!!

> TOBY HEIGES DILLSBURG, PA

LOVE ALWA DAR REECE NICEVILLE, FL

FEDNUS SI

KIT BOVETT MISSOURI CITY, TX

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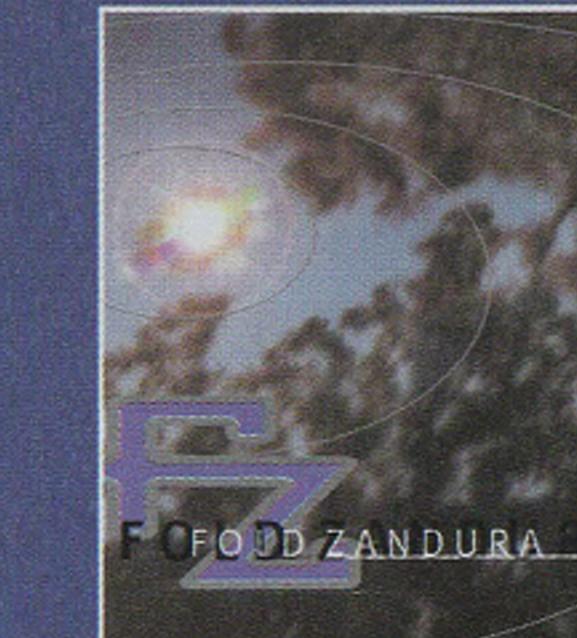
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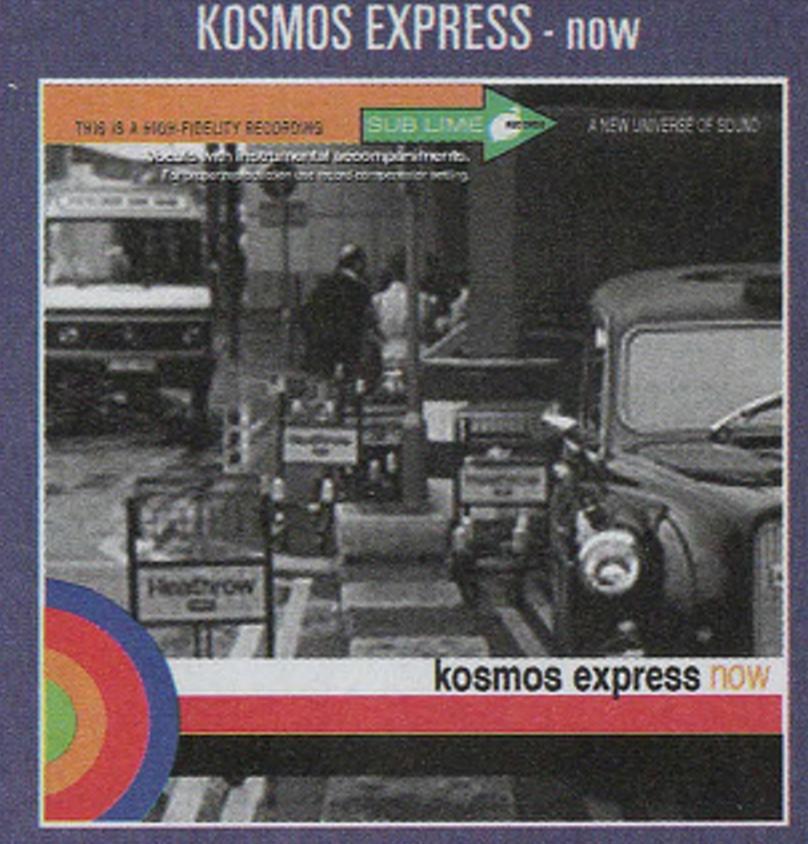
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BY CHRIS WELL

HOI POLLOI IS BREAKING UP. As Andrew to return to New Zealand. Jenny Gullen and Andrew Horst tell "We feel the Lord is saying it's us, they'd been playing showcases time to go home and rest ... we for some pretty big general market think we'll come back, maybe in a labels. Then, just before one big couple of years, but we don't showcase, guitarist Troy Daugherty know if it'll be to visit or to stay. left the group. Jenny says she and At this point, we're not afraid Andrew decided then it was a criti- because we've let go of our cal time to pray ... "We came to the expectations and trust that realization that being on a major the Lord knows what's best." label is no guarantee that we'll be They do expect music to be promoted or successful," Jenny in their future, but they says. Out of that prayer time—and assume it will be a difsubsequent sharing with members ferent direc-

that the Lord was calling Jenny and

tion from Hoi Polloi. There is the possibility of a farewell tour in the spring, and a special farewell performance on the 7ball Stage at Creation '97.

GUARDIAN ARE HUGE ROCK

STARS! The people of Chile got their first taste of Christian rock, when Guardian took the stage in front of 3,000 screaming fans! The show in Chile was at El Estadio Monumental, an arena normally home for the national circus ... where Guardian performed with an elephant waiting backstage! In all, the South American tour was a success, from their performance at the two SOS festivals in front of 70,000 fans to their ground breaking trip to Chile! (you'll be hearing more about these rockers in a future 7ball ... we've been listening to early stuff from Bottle Rocket ... it is very cool)

NEW LABELS ARE AFOOT: Sub-Lime and Organic. In both cases, friends of 7ball have joined with the new teams. Dr. Tony Shore makes the move from Five Minute Walk over to Sub-Lime, an indie oriented label whose flagship signing is Fold Zandura. Jay

try as Billboard is to the

making the rounds

SIX-PIECE

Swartzendruber moves over from re:think to all market design annual. This Organic, an indie oriented label whose initial is as high an honor as you can signings are award-winning Euroband Split get in the creative community, Level (winners of the British Christian Music | since Creativity is to the art Award for Best Rock Band), Spyglass Blue and product packaging indusand hard rockers Bride.

> NASHVILLE CRITICAL recording industry or Vogue

FAVORITES Say So are in the studio, pending is to fashion (or 7ball is to final negotiations with one label. A label rock...). release should be pretty impressive, since as indie artists they've worked with the likes of ACOUSTIC alterna-pop Steve Taylor, Charlie Peacock and Phil band Caedmon's Call, Keaggy. Something could be in stores as a name that's been early as March.

FREE FLYING SOUL won Best Art | for some time in & Packaging Award from Creativity, a gener- the underground,

of their church—came the decision

finally signed a record deal with Warner Alliance. Hailing from Houston, the band was recently voted by Musician magazine as among the Top 50 unsigned bands in North America. Their dedicated underground college following has grown so big in the past four years-even without official distribution, their records can be



found in more than 200 stores in more than 25 states and three different countries—there was some question whether they needed a record contract. However, with an actual record label building on such a large support base, Caedmon's Call will

be the most famous band

in the world in no time. THE GUYS

in Everybodyduck (on

their way to becoming the official rock band of youth pastors everywhere—sorry, Petra) have a pretty nifty newsletter, Hootenanny! ("all the news that's fit to eat"). The pub includes actual information from the road, and wacky items, as well. It's worth checking out. If you'd like to get on

their mailing list, write Everybodyduck, 5626 W. Onyx Avenue, Glendale, AZ 85302. Be a pal and send 'em a dollar to

cover printing and postage, (including the fleet-footed

and tell 'em 7ball sent ya!

camera work of our own Bruce FOR A. Brown, who was knocked THE TATTOO RECORDS onto his back while working the longform video project camera—let's see if that makes come March. Not only will the final cut!), but you will also you see the fab new con- see cameo appearances from cept videos from The Choir PFR-drummer Mark Nash, the and Common Children, not Blue Joons (Molly Ashworth and only will you see live footage of Sarah Masen) and a member of The Choir from Cornerstone '96 blockbuster Gospel quartet



4Him. All that, and the introduction of the evil and macabre Buddy Tattoo, a figure as daunting and shadowy as any you'd see on that pagan TV show The X-Files. If it turns out the way we expect, it will be the single strangest video.

Bruce."

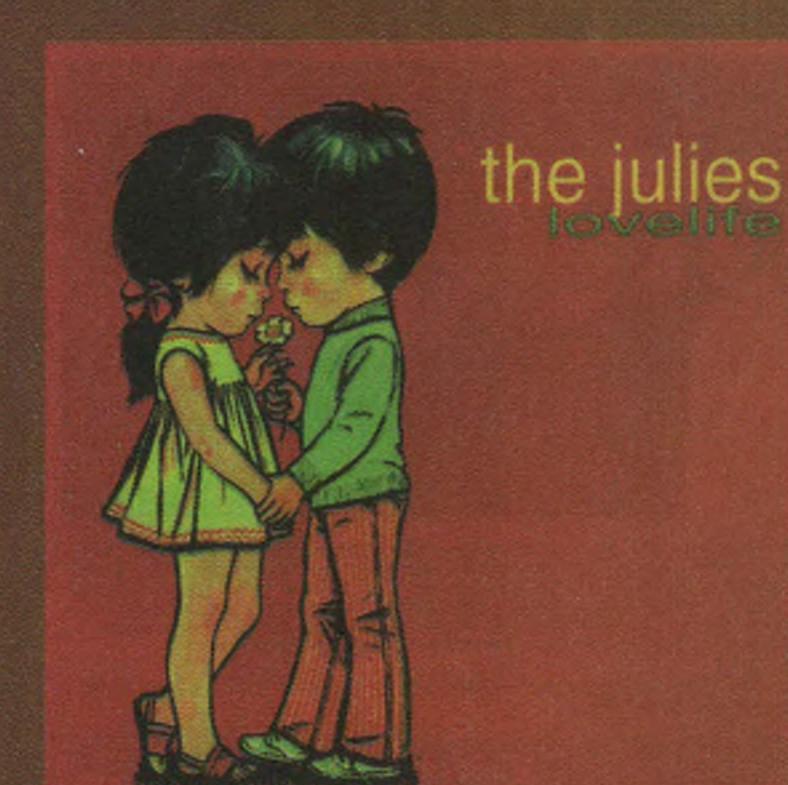
AND IT WOULD SEEM WRONG to end this issue's column without bidding a hearty welcome to Bruce A. Brown, the new managing editor of 7ball magazine. "Welcome,





direction affice

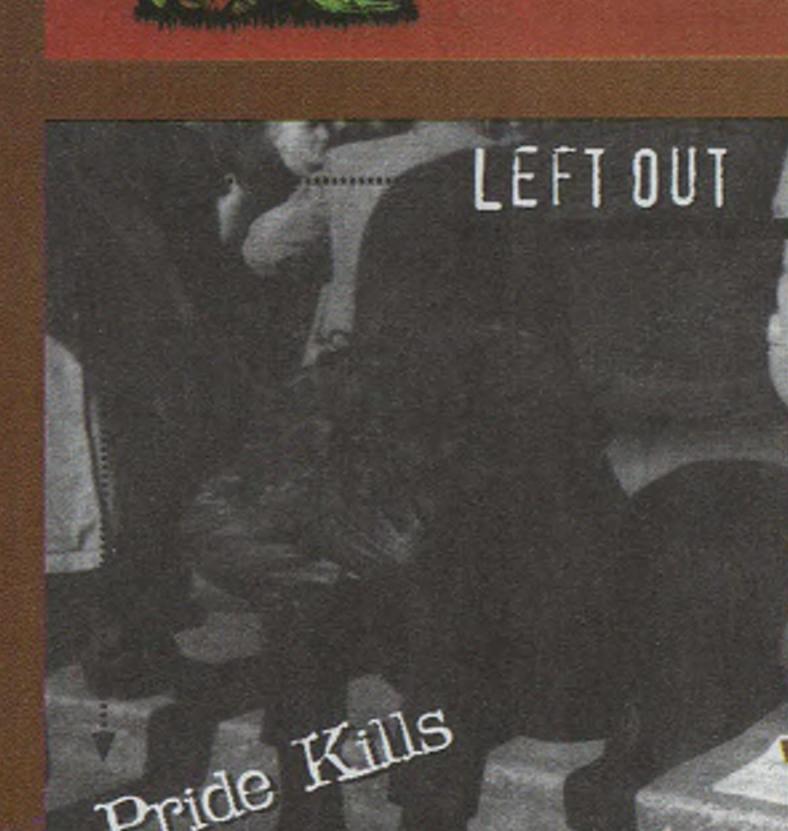
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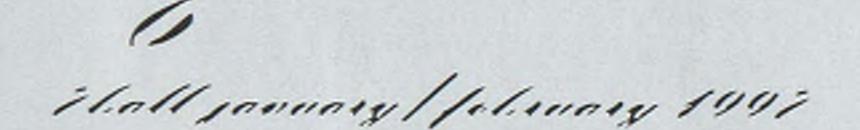


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A / favorite discs of 1996, as voted VV on by the following esteemed panel: Bruce A. Brown, Chris Well, Frank Chimento, Amy E. Dixon, Brad Koltas, David Bumgarner, Chad Bonham, Steven L. Roth, Brad Caviness, Dan MacIntosh, Jamie Lee Rake & Danielle L. Aderholdt. But enough of the back patting. Let's examine these choices a 1) Sarah Masen Sarah Masen

4) Common Children SKYWIYE (Tattoo)

The Hunger

(re:think)

2) Charlie Peacock strangelanguage (re:think)

3) Black Eyed Sceva
5 Years, 50,000 have.

Miles Davis (5 Minute Walk)

ell, there you have it, kids! Our

little closer, shall we?

1 & 2)Sarah Masen and Charlie Peacock in the first

two positions? Hmmm...possibly not what some

would have considered frontrunners according to the

"Modern Rock" mast-head on our magazine. Perhaps

our critics voted for excellence above style. Plus, there

are certain elements of both discs which could be con-

sidered alternative. Interestingly enough, Cindy

3)Black Eyed Sceva. The band's relentless

touring resulted in four new studio tracks and

4)Common Children. Can't quibble with this one

a bit. Intense musical performances and great

5)The Choir. The elder statesmen of alter-

native--at least for the purposes of this

list. If this is their last studio creation, they

6)Seven Day Jesus. Unbridled onstage

excitement plus the magnificent voice of

7)Third Day. More classic rock than modern.

But the Hoot-a-like vocals of Mac Powell

have to impress us. But it did.

8) Vigilantes of Love. The Georgia

band's first major foray into the

Christian music field didn't really

9)Loose ends. PFR came closest to

sounding alternative on Them; Every

Day Life took its hybrid of rock & rap

to a fevered conclusion; Never Say

scorching versions of several live favorites.

departed in fine fashion.

Brian McSweeney.

turned our heads.

Morgan picked up multiple votes as well.

best artists in modern rock; and King's X, also distributed in the Christian marketplace for the first time, offered an album with lyrics worthy of its great talent.

Dinosaur fea-

tured a whole

bunch of the

Other notable albums picking up multiple votes included Common-wealth/Plankeye; picture of a seventh wonder/poor old lu;

Good Dog Bad Dog/Over the Rhine; Watermelon/Driver 8 and The Boat Ashore/Michael Roe.

8) Vigilantes of Love (Warner Resound)

6) Seven Day Jesus Every Day Life (5 Minute Walk) King's x

7) Third Day

Third Day

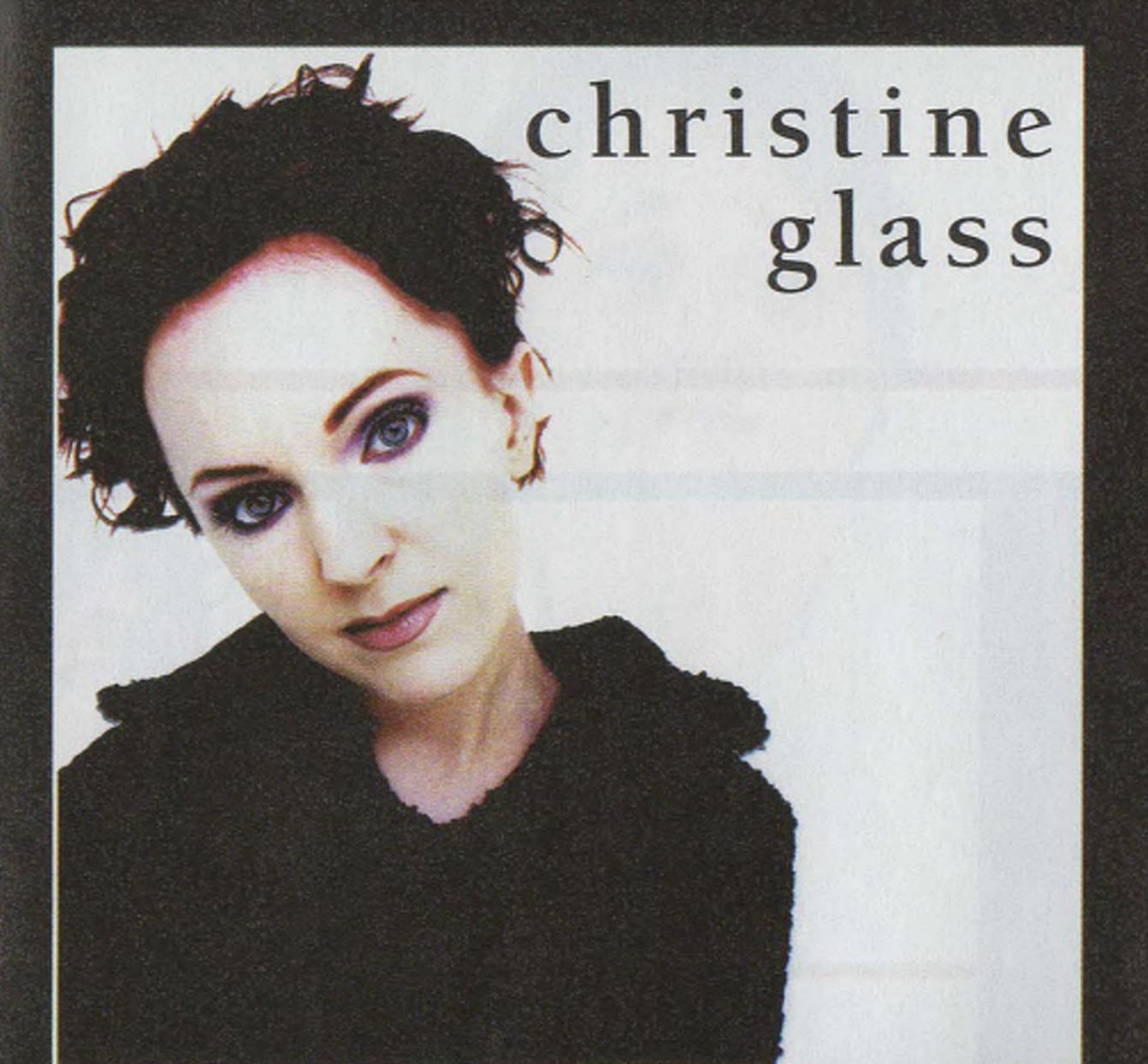
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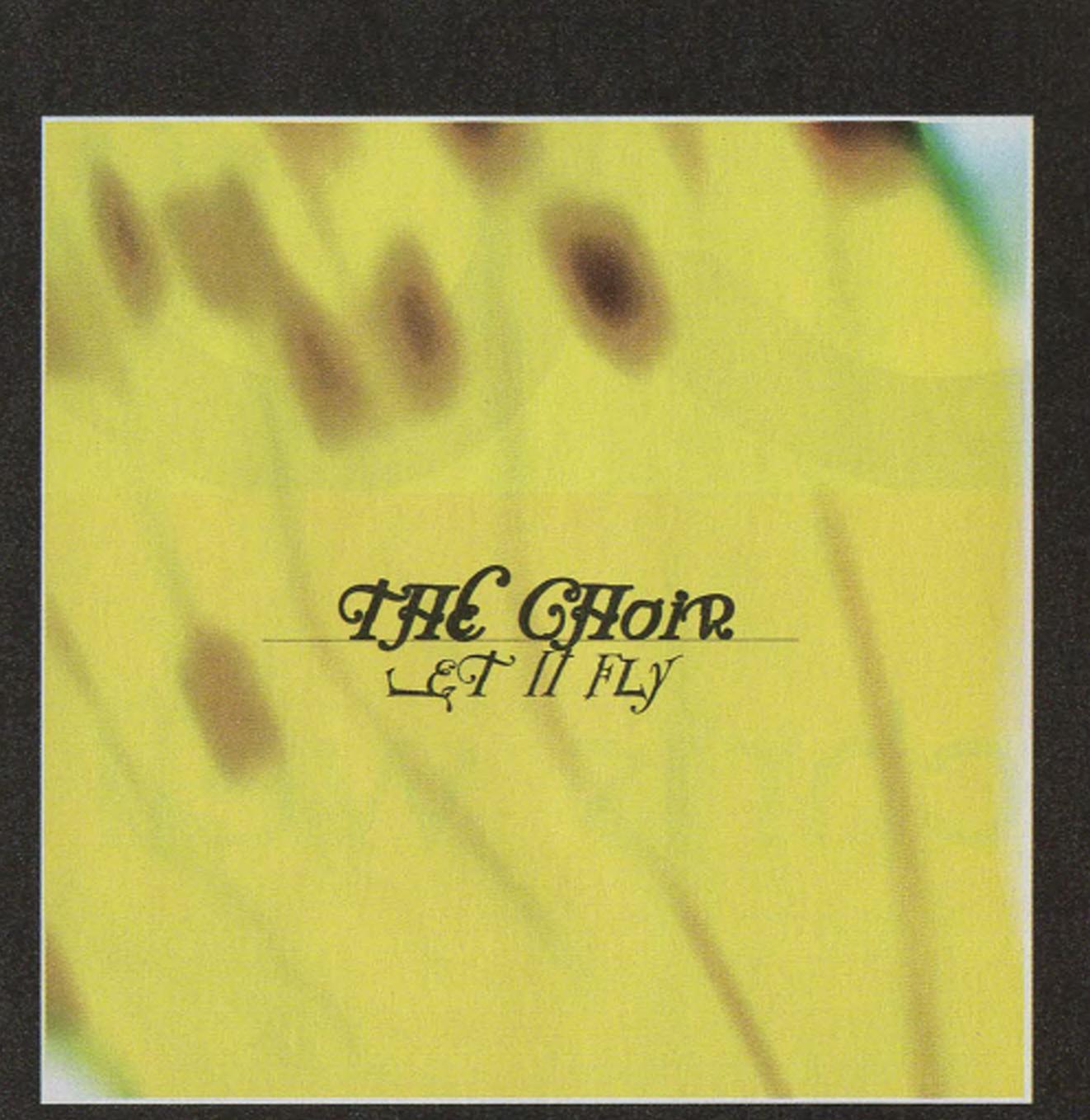
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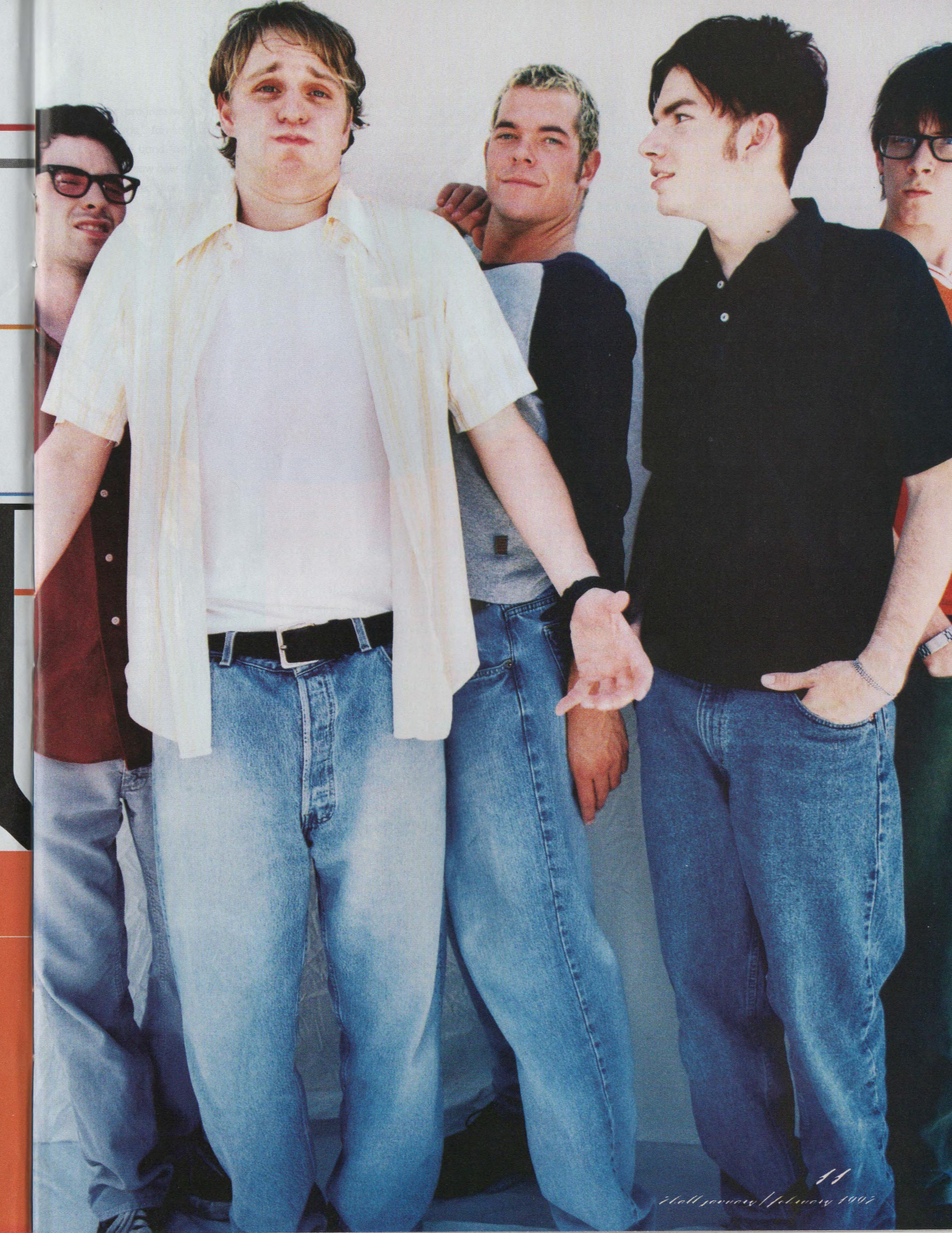
estled among the Rocky Mountains, low hanging clouds and crisp, blue sky, a mall called The Citadel in Colorado Springs is hosting the juggernaut Third name. "Nobody gets the name right," laments keyboardist Patrick "The Fork" Day/Seven Day Jesus/All Star United tour for afternoon McCallum. "How hard could it be? We've been called 'All Stars 5' ... the 'All appearances. All Star United are the new kids of the set—they'll have been Stars Untied' ... 'The All-Stars' ... 'Ian and his All-Stars Band ... " on the tour for three months before their first album is even released.

mix of Brit rock melodies and charged American rock n' roll, their mature (yet n' roll hall: The dome-shaped auditorium is decorated with aging, orange and sometimes fun) lyrics, and for their wacky stage presence. Although the fans white curtains. It's the sort of place where you'd hold a local beauty pageant.

by chris well

Patrick, who is usually responsible for the product table, is setting

Throughout the tour, the fivesome has been winning fans for their up the display. The venue for tonight, The Colorado Opry, isn't your usual rock remember, a steady string of promoters tend to forget the band's collective A sign in the lobby announces that weekly events at the Colorado Opry



include "clogging lessons" and "country dance lessons."

As Patrick continues to make the table presentable for the night's crowd, he notes that their tour hasn't been without controversy. "At one church we played, some guy told me we couldn't sell our shirts there because he thought the star looked like a pentagram. I looked at it a second and realized, 'You know, it does." Patrick didn't take the shirt down, though, because ... well, after all, it wasn't a pentagram. "You can make anything

look evil. There are stars on the American flag."

Despite fighting colds, the group bursts
through an energetic set. Lead singer Ian Eskelin—

yes, of former techno-cheese fame—challenges the crowd, "How many came to sit in those cushy seats, and how many came to rock n' roll?"

A delicate piano part introduces "Living in La La Land" before the band kicks into gear with a rich, full sound. The band has a liquid stage presence, with drummer Christian Crowe and bassist Gary Miller providing a thump and groove that allows Ian and sometime All Star guitarist Brian Whitman to wander the stage frantically. The guitar sizzles over thick, rock n' roll, while solid harmonies beef up the melodic rock, Patrick's deliciously retro keyboards adding the right, almost geeky, touch.

As they rock on, you notice they take on the personas of self-conscious rock stars. Ian throws off waves of manic energy, like some mutant game show host, drawing the audience into loud group therapy: "This is my one chance to make you look as stupid as we do!"

This is a whole new, improved Ian: And it's because he's no longer a "solo" artist. Although some of these guys have backed up Ian for years, they have evolved into ... well, a band.

"Our live sound was drastically different from his recorded material," Christian says of the older songs, as they were transformed over the past year. "On the record, everything was mostly programmed. But live, we had live guitar and live bass and the keyboards were diminished. We began behaving more like a 'band' than like a backup band for a solo artist."

"It just made so much more sense to start fresh," Ian agrees. "It wasn't a difficult transition. It was very natural. It's a lot less about me now, and now it's a creative identity for everybody in the band."

One hallmark for the new unit All Star United has been their lyrical approach. Some of the songs, for instance, are quite sardonic. "The songs 'La La Land' and 'Smash Hit' are jabs at those people who use God as their easy chair," Ian explains. "Giving your life to God is the easy part, but making sure to live your life for Christ is the tough part. If people expect that once you become a Christian, everything will become daisies and roses, that's not the case.

The people who think that are living in a 'la la land.""

He adds that not all of the songs are as light-hearted. "Some of the songs are very serious. 'Torn' is about indecision, a guy trying to decide whether to live the life of Christ or if he wants to continue living the way of the world. That's a pretty serious topic." Another strong cup of coffee is "Drive," a powerful and moody look at sharing Christ with your friends in an honest and personal way.

Ian is relieved to be performing songs in a more mature vein. "It's really refreshing to me, not having to write every single song about being a cheerleader for Jesus. I don't think we need to be doing that as Christians. I think we need to be writing relevant stuff that applicable to everybody's daily walk."

On their journey of discovery, there have been quite a few adventures. For instance, while in Los Angeles on a photo shoot, the gang crossed paths with a film shoot in front of Hollywood's famous Chinese Theater. Upon discovering that the film was written and directed by TV's Punky Brewster, they somehow ended up with cameos. "I don't know if we'll be edited out or what," Brian says, "but it's possible we may be on the soundtrack for the film."

Another adventure found the band in London, mixing the record with the same guy who mixed records by the likes of Ride and the Breeders. "He's worked with a lot of stuff that's

pretty progressive by Christian market

standards," Ian says. "He didn't care we were a

Christian band. And he's picky. While we were over
there we saw how many tapes people send him, so we were
really excited that he chose to work with us."

While there, they discovered that the cross-cultural rock of All Star United sparks different reactions in different countries. "It was funny," Ian says. "It made us feel like we'd almost developed a new sound. The people in America thought our music sounded very British, because we've got some of those melodic ideas of British rock ... and the people in England thought we sound so American. So it's cool, we're like a band without a land."

Christian adds, "We're going to conquer some small country somewhere and call it our own."

Yet another adventure found Ian and Brian in Bosnia, performing 28 acoustic shows in 12 days. "Ian and I went with Officer's Christian Fellowship through the department of defense to do some acoustic shows," Brian recalls. "We couldn't bring the whole band, because the instructions were to bring whatever you can grab in your hands immediately to be airlifted in case of open fire. We were doing two, three, sometimes four shows a day. The soldiers seemed to really like it. I think for them it was just a taste of home."

"It was really cool to see how we were received," Ian says. "It was bizarre, because we'd play a gig, jump in a helicopter with an Apache escort and cruise to our next gig. It was much different than hopping in a bus or van and driving to our next gig in Oklahoma."

Ian says in the course of the Bosnian junket, they played for a variety of nationalities, including Norwegians, Russians, French, and even Bosnians who were working as interpreters for the camps. "It was cool to see that the Holy Spirit could use the music, even beyond the lyrics, to reach people. You could definitely sense a glow about the camps. Here we are, two geek kids from the United States setting up in a mess hall and just rocking out. They were really excited about it."

The latest adventure for the band, of course, is this monster tour with Third Day. Many nights go well, but then there are those like the small church in Denver, the night after Colorado Springs. The rain is coming down hard, the power is out for several blocks, and we're stuck in traffic because the traffic lights are out, too. At 7 o'clock, a half hour before the appointed time, there's some discussion about bringing the few ticket holders upstairs to do acoustic sets by candlelight.

The lights come back in a few minutes—and they're finally able to start working with the sound system. "This is classic," Ian says, eyes red from his still worsening cold. "We have to use the church P.A. because the church is too small to bring our sound system in ... we're sick ... because the power was out, we won't have a sound check ... they're expecting a low turnout ... our dinner is something off a deli tray ... and there's a buzz in the sound system.

"These kinds of shows are a test of faith. We have to trust the Lord to get us through."

Ian then decides to mess with the sound guy, and starts using his wireless microphone to fake a new buzz in the system.

At 7:20, the lights go out again.

For some reason, Ian realizes he's been wearing the same clothes for four days.

Five minutes later, the lights come back, and a small crowd trickles into the tiny church sanctuary. Patrick isn't fazed: "This is gonna be a hoot."

They go looking for Gary, so the band can pray together before the show.

By the time they hit the stage, the crowd is starting to thicken. Despite his physical weakness earlier, Ian has a manic attitude on stage. "We are a band named All Star United and you have

never heard of us before in your entire life!"

The others follow the wacky feel, with a liquid stage presence that ebbs and flows.

Patrick sometimes stops playing keyboards long enough to blow bubbles into the crowd. He occasionally holds the keyboard stand over his head, playing them upside down. Once, pretty much everyone in the room is certain he'll hit the light fixture—of course, he has so much duct tape wrapped around the keyboard stand, it would be simple "It enough for him to pull some tape off and fix it.

After a furious set—despite the weather, the wear and tear of the day, the smaller audience—All Star United has still rocked. "I'm gonna get on the bus and sleep until Kansas City. Thanks!"

Out in the hall, kids crowd around the table, waiting for the band. A handwritten sign on the table reads, "We will sell you stuff after we rock!" The band is trying to squeeze their instruments through the crowded hallway, so they can deposit them on the bus.

Brian and Patrick both worry about how the band sounded. "I thought that was probably the worst show of the tour," Patrick complains. "However, it wasn't a bad turnout for thinking only five people would show up."

Behind the table, they gather to hawk their wares again. Since they feel like the underdogs of the tour—them being without a record and all—they feel they have to push harder to get the attention of the kids. In fine used car salesman fashion, Patrick barks, "Increase the value of your car, ladies and gentlemen, with our sticker!"

Before long, they're singing "The Gambler," and the passerby are joining in. As it wraps, Patrick shouts, "Support the band that supports Kenny Rogers!"

Some of the new fans ask how the band members met, and are answered with a variety of hoaxes:

"We met at a restaurant."

"We picked Patrick up at a bowling alley."

"We were all in a big car wreck."

"It goes back to Nam, and you don't want to get me started."

It doesn't take long to realize that this is all still part of the show: Which then makes you realize that an All Star United concert is a sort of theatrical event. "The deal is, we're immature rock stars when we go on stage," Christian explains. "It's just a free-for-all goofiness."

Ian brings it into perspective. "We hope to portray from the stage that, first and foremost, we have God in our lives. Second of all, we're completely nuts. It's definitely a live show thing. We want to go out on the road and really show people that there is definitely fun to be had. Especially living in Christ."

"Yes, 'fun to be had,"" Patrick agrees, trying the phrase on for size. "When you have Christ, you're free. You don't have to conform to some weird 'freakiness.' That's what people have said at a lot of our shows, they can really see we are enjoying our Christianity."

True Love Waits...but waits for what? That's a question I'm sure this extremely rational and scripturally sound campaign has touched a lot of you readers must be asking yourselves. We don't want to come off like a cross between Dr. Ruth, your parents and your health class teacher...but it is a question worth considering.

Just about the time we figure out that some of us are boys and some of us are girls, we have to deal with sex on a daily basis. Whether we learn about it in the classroom, the Sunday school room or the locker room, it permeates our existence. Television tries to tell us how to look and feel about sex, books

and magazines describe it in lurid detail, movies play out sexual fantasies God, True love for friends, True love for your future mate, True love for and even music fuels those thoughts and feelings. If we're very lucky, we your future children and True love for yourself. have a parent or parents, a friend or relative, a teacher or other author- To some of you, many perhaps, these may seem like corny and ity figure who guides us down a moral, and hopefully, biblical approach to outmoded ideals. But since our sexuality is at the core of our being, sex. One such organization which has done a great job of guiding it is imperative that it be kept pure, and that we deal with our teenagers through those difficult decisions is True Love Waits.

We encourage you to carefully study your Bible, and to consider what proven that it can help, and do so in a non-judgmental, supportive the True Love Waits campaign could mean to you. In the past four years, fashion. Give it a shot. @

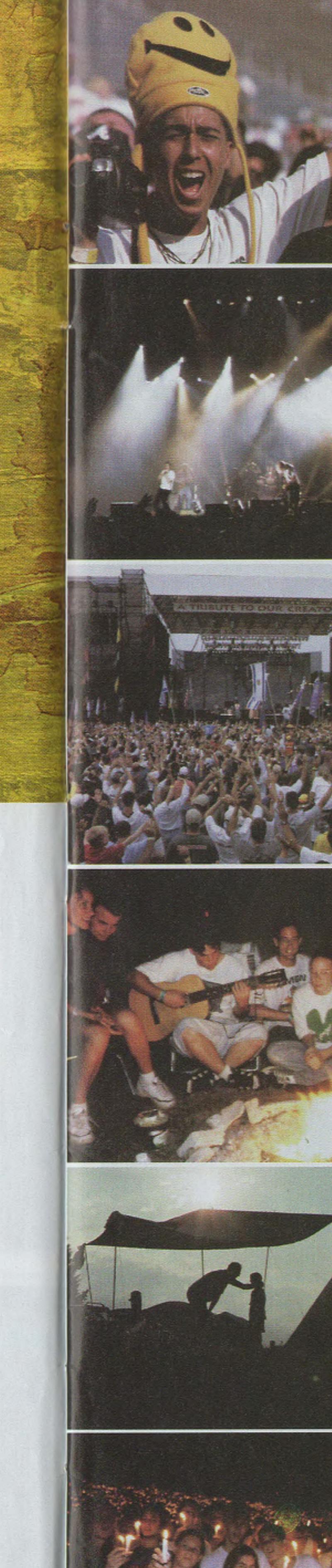
hundreds of thousands of teenagers from dozens of denominations and student organizations. From Florida to the nation's Capitol

to Los Angeles, young people like yourselves have followed TLW's pledge: 1) To remain sexually pure until marriage; 2) To challenge your peers to do the same; 3) To help parents set biblical standards of sexual purity for their kids; 4) To insure the involvement of the church in joining with parents and

In addition, True Love Waits emphasizes True love for

response to our sexuality in a biblical manner. True Love Waits has

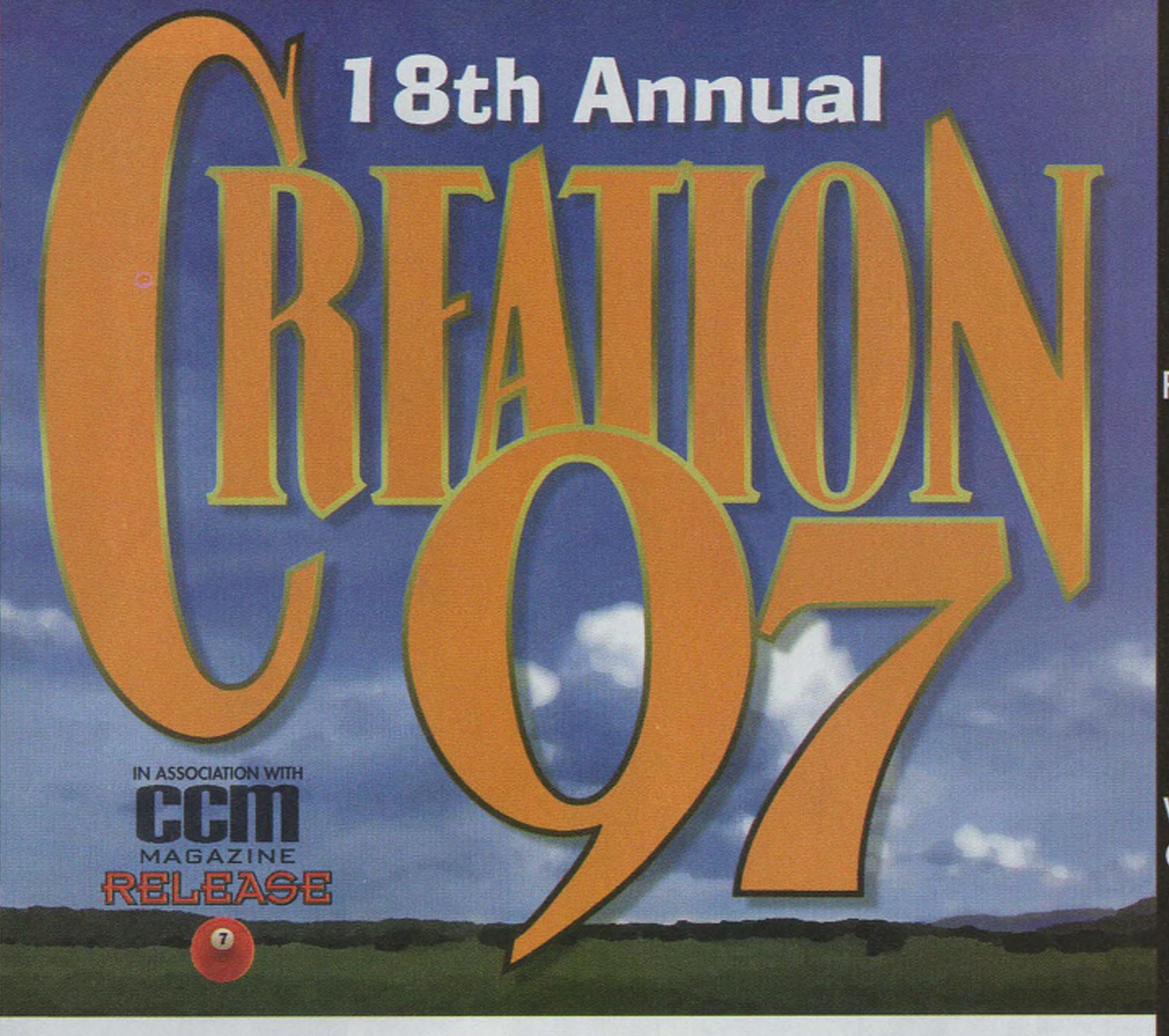












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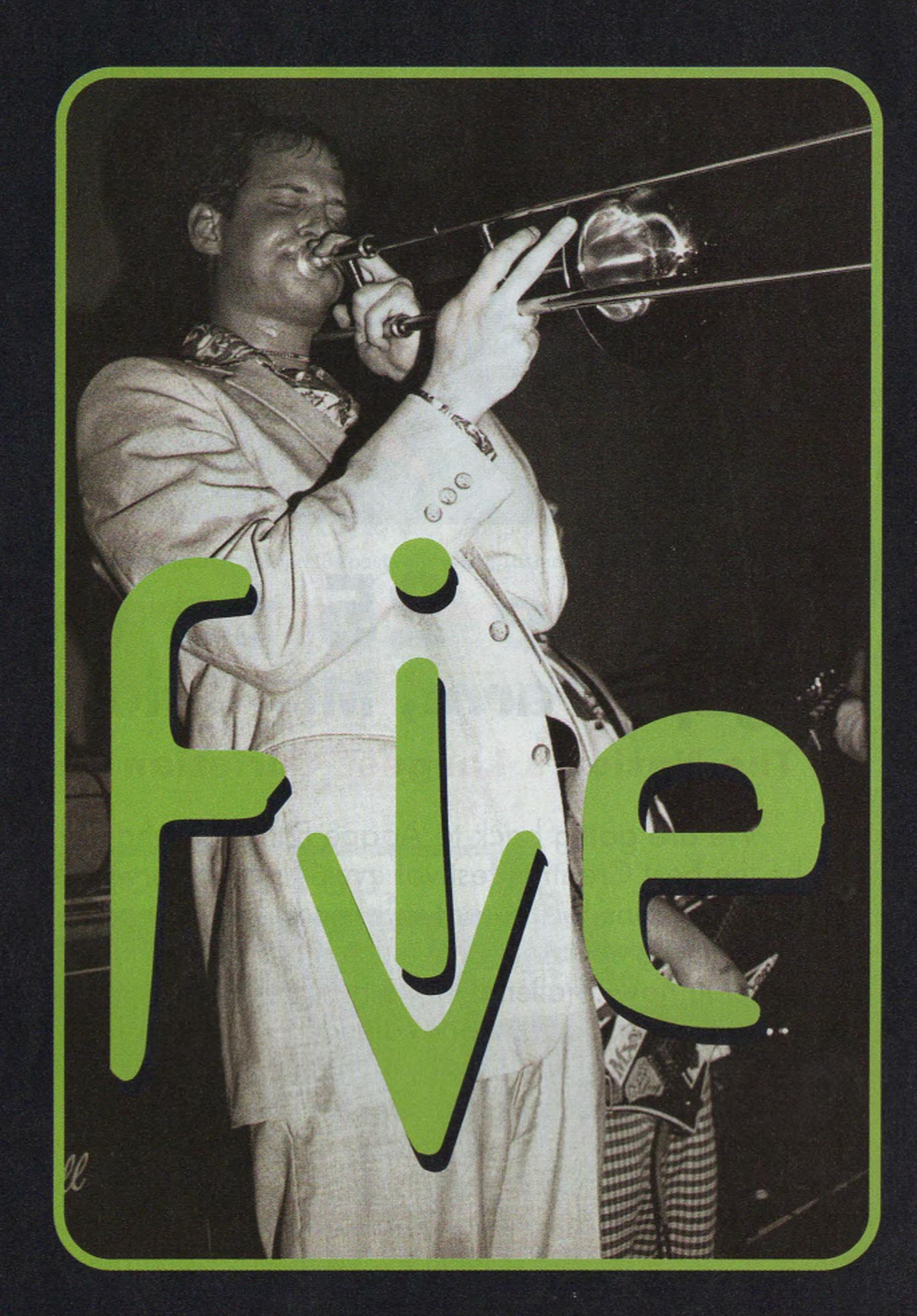
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It shouldn't be too surprising when a conversation with members of Five Iron Frenzy suddenly turns into a serious discussion about 80s television ("The A-Team" and "Three's Company") or old school rap (Whodini, Run-DMC, The Fat Boys). After all, the personality of the band can be as quirky as the lyrical and musical content they employ every time they hit the stage.

"Most secular ska lyrics are the goofiest, funniest things you can pick up," lead singer Reese Roper says. "We try to get and we jump around

and do belly flops. It's total fun. Even when there's nobody getting into our shows, we still have a good time."

At one time, four of Five Iron Frenzy's members were well on the way towards a typical 90s angst thing complete with a full-on industrialflavored thrash sound.

"It was

kind of the music we

really us," Roper says. "So, we started to listen to ska and punk more and more. We were kind of afraid of starting a ska band because we knew we'd have to get all these horn players. It was really intimidating but God just totally stepped in and made it happen."

Operation Ivy and Skankin' Pickle were just a couple of the bands that became heavy influences for this new quartet. Five band." Iron Frenzy, as they now called themselves, the current eight-piece outfit.

Concert appearances with of the music.

Christian mainstays such as MxPx, Dime Store Prophets, Black Eyed Sceva and the Supertones ensued. There have even been that across in our lyrics, but then again, some pretty significant secular shows as well something to the audience, just a small word, there's some serious overtones. But on stage, as a show they played with mainstream act we're just total goof balls. We wear Afro wigs Goldfinger. So, before they even released and all kinds of goofy stuff like bunny ears, Upbeats and Beatdowns, an eclectic mix of

"For us, it's wherever the Spirit is leading us," Ortega says, "We can be playing a secular show and if God directs us to say we're open to doing that. We always pray before the shows and ask God to guide us."

Well, most of the time, anyway.

Five Iron Frenzy

learned its lesson early on about the importance of waiting on the Lord's leading. "One of the first secular shows we ever played was this cafe in Denver and all the kids were totally digging the music and I think we felt that since we were a Christian band we needed to say something," Ortega explains. "It was not really led by the

liked, but as we went on, we realized it wasn't ska influences, FIF had created quite a buzz.

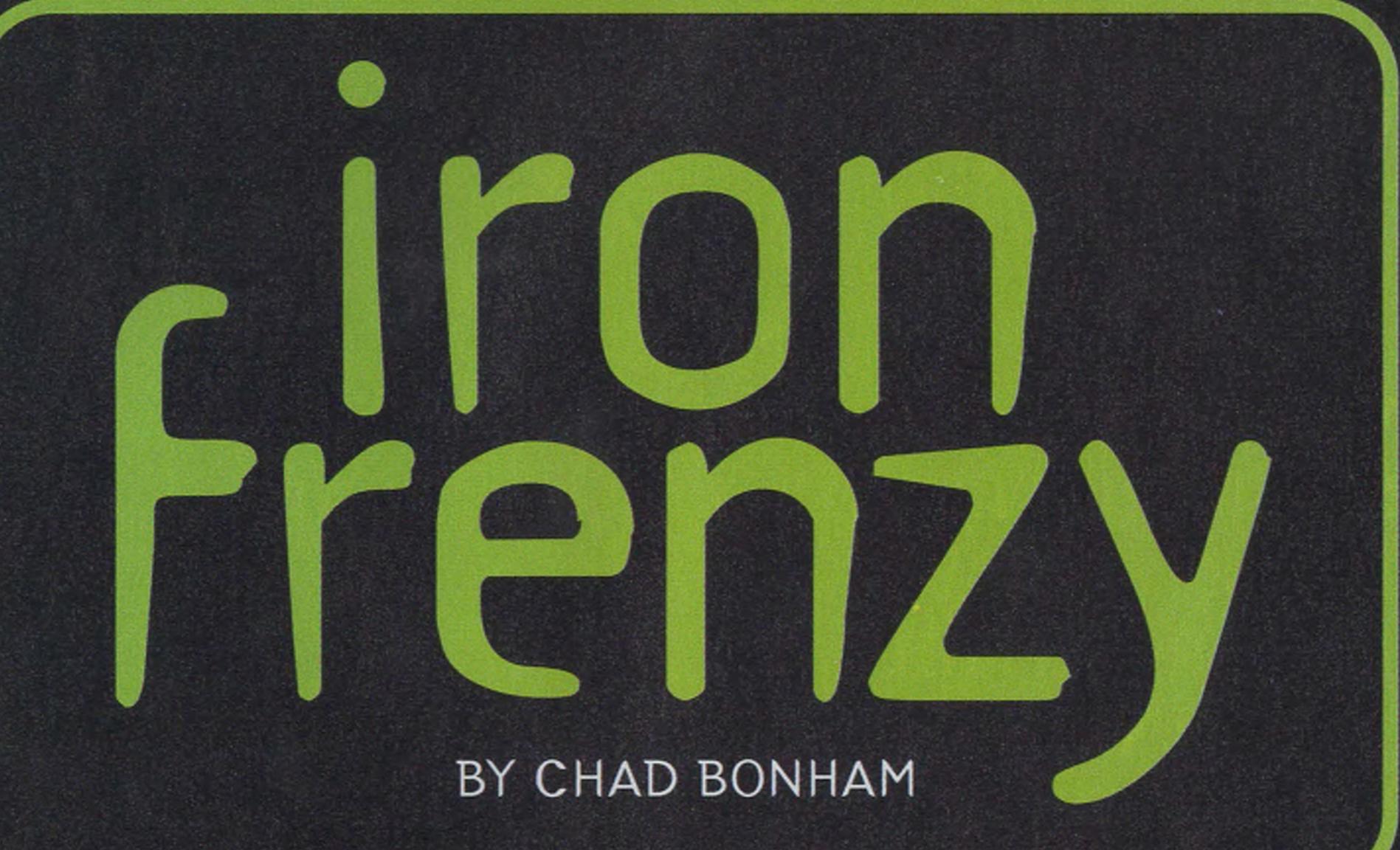
"I can't believe the kids are getting into it," Roper says. "When we played at Cornerstone this year, even though they put us opposite the Supertones, our tent was still overflowing. I couldn't believe it. We were just standing here with out eyes wide open, watching all this stuff fly by us and we're in awe of God and how He's moving in our

After a year and a half of scatasked a trumpet player to join in. Before long, tered concert dates and occasional touring, says. "Everything seems like its so fake these they recruited several horn players to form Five Iron Frenzy has employed a rigid standard of how it approaches the ministry side

Spirit at all, and afterwards we really got

To avoid too many of those incidents, FIF set up a weekly Bible study group that they advertise by passing out fliers at their concerts. The meetings attracts both Christians and non-believers and have had significant results, such as the wasted disc jockey who eventually came back sober and recently received Christ.

"We just want to be real," Ortega days, and there's so much lip service that goes on, even in the churches. You just get sick of that. Who wants to be plastic?"



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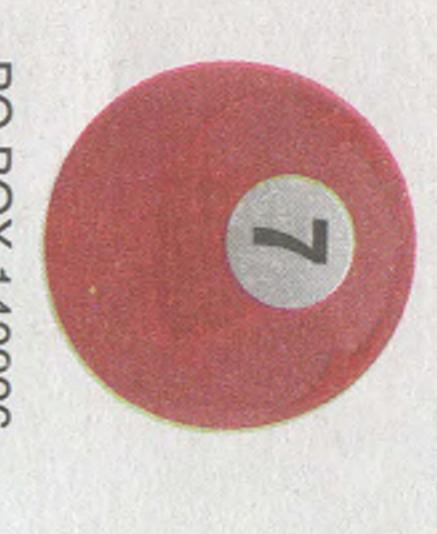
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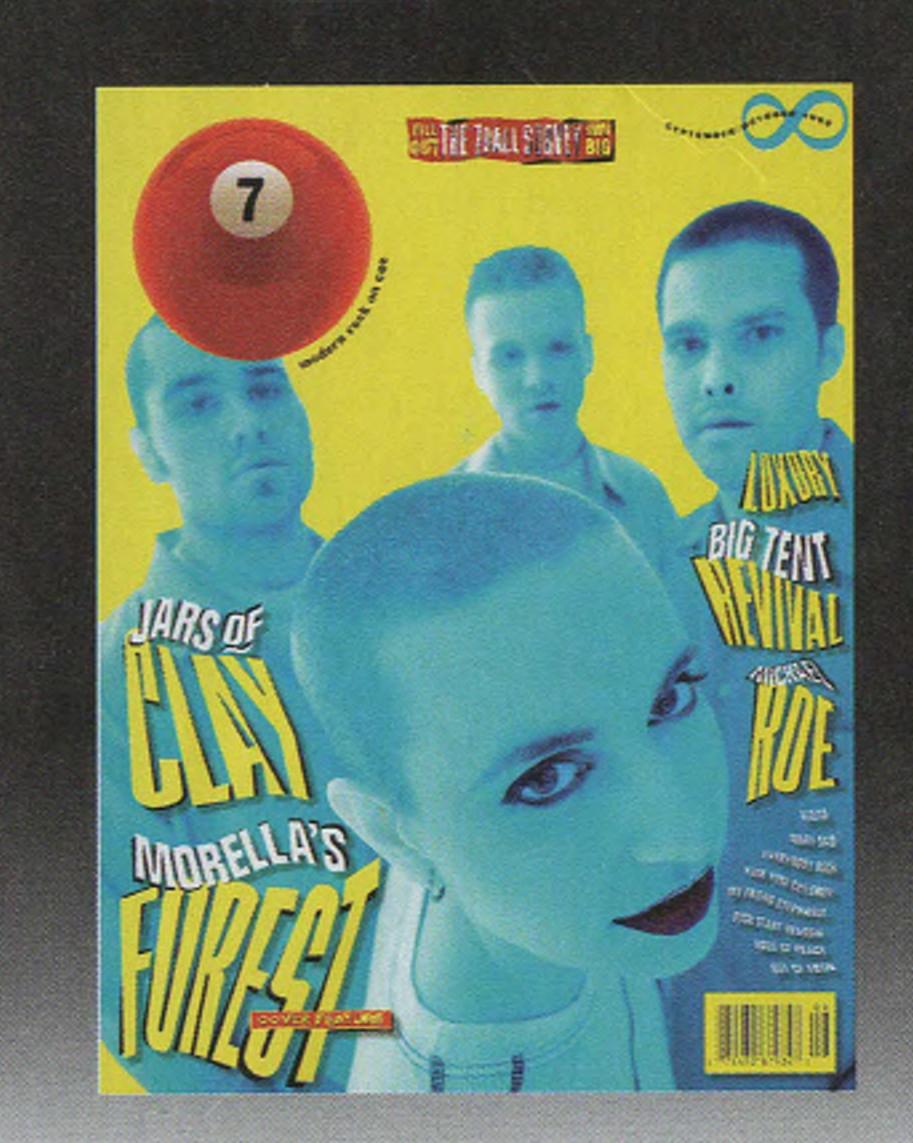
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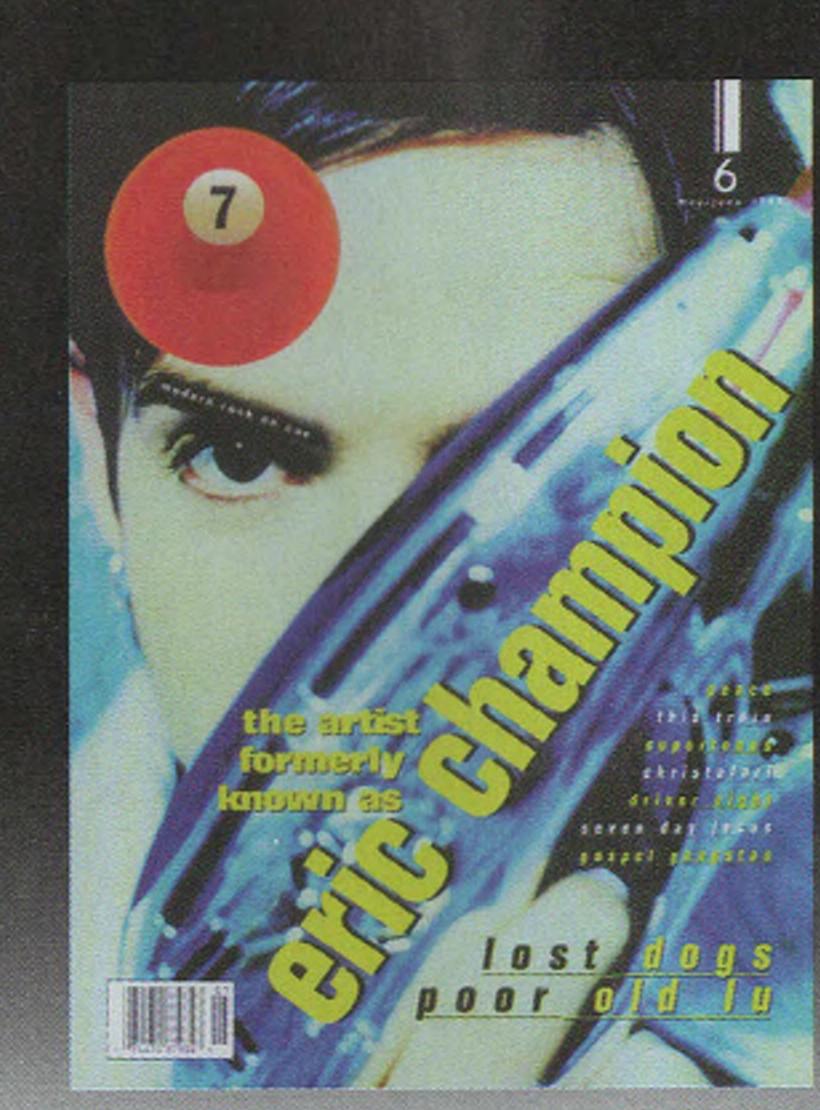
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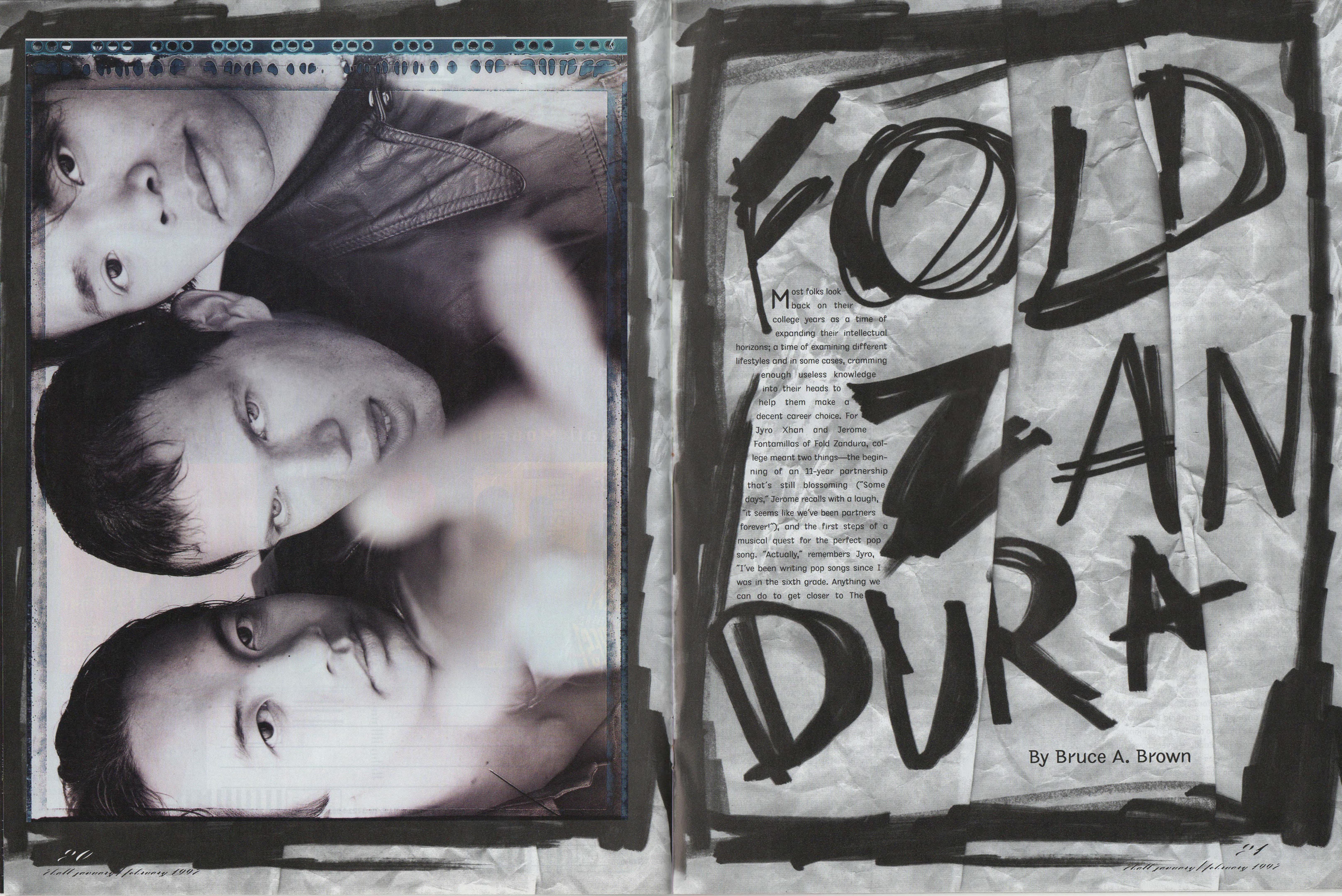


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Beatles sonically and musically, the happier I'll be."

The first musical entity for which Jerome and Jyro became wellknown was Mortal. Jyro explained that Mortal's intense industrial sound Records, a modern rock division of Essential Records. The label has schedwas partly based on the equipment available to him and Jerome as well as uled the release of Return, an eight-song CD which contains five songs the duo's admitted musical limitations. "Industrial music was easy to do from the band's limited-edition indie CD and three new songs. Jerome says with the kind of recording gear we had. I wasn't a guitar player at all—I'm Fold hopes to re-introduce itself with the new disc. "We only made about still not much of one. Barre chords—which is what you mostly play in 5000 copies of the Fold Zan CD. So the only people that could buy the CD industrial—are much easier to play. And I could barely sustain a singing had to pick up copies from our tours and the few stores which carried it. voice, so screaming was a lot easier as well. So things seemed to point in We re-mixed five songs from that CD for this new disc, plus we added an that direction for Mortal."

industrial groups in Christian music, Jyro says he and Jerome have always tially a new album to most people." experimented with different vocal and musical approaches. "I consider myself a piano player before anything. It's my main instrument. A couple has probably attracted more attention to the band than the group's music of the tunes that Fold Zandura does now, I actually wrote before Mortal. itself? Simple, says Jyro. "I made up 'Zandura.' We used that name to melodic.

completed two final and musically divergent Mortal projects with long-time place, and the band became these characters who inhabited this story engineering partner Mark Rodriguez. "Pura," explains Jyro, "was this ethe-about this place. Frank, Jerome and myself all had different roles in a story real praise album that we've always wanted to do. The [5 Minute Walk] about this place and the songs became a description of our lives in this Mortal album was something that we wanted to do to help [5 Minute Walk place. Hopefully someday we can do a video and show part of how we've president] Frank Tate and he wanted to do to help us, so we both really ben-imagined this place to be. And we don't mind people wanting to know." efitted from that. It contained some left-over songs that we didn't want lost; we really wanted them out there. We also tried to launch Xhan day, many people felt the band never reached its full commercial potential. Records, our own little label, at that time." Jerome adds that "King Flux' And even with the excitement Fold Zandura generated before signing to a and 'Fray Lagoon' from the Mortal album were songs that were around major label, Jyro says he wasn't sure that the band was going to survive. when Andy Prickett [of Prayer Chain] first started working with us. 'King "In the past year or so, I've been seeking some kind of explanation for what Flux' was actually recorded as a Fold Zan demo. Andy played all our early we've been doing. We weren't on any label, we were touring, but just breakshows. He'll always be a mentor. Even on the new stuff, he helped us with ing even. We had no sense of where we were going to end up. In anything sounds. You can hear his guitar ideas on the Fold Zan indie CD."

Zandura started without a lot of preconceived notions about what should proved Himself to be behind what we're doing. Sometimes, when it didn't happen next. "The group actually became Fold Zan when Frank Lenz joined feel like we should be where we were, from a financial or practical standin April of 1995. We were just working on songs for awhile and decided to point, or even spiritually, God has always confirmed that we were doing was do some demos for ourselves to see if we could start a band. We didn't right. We were at the point, before the agreement with Sub·Lime, where we know for sure how these songs would sound until we tried them with a felt like we might give things a few more months, one more tour, and then band. Plus, we didn't want people to say that we were just changing our re-evaluate. Then Robert Beeson and Essential came along and the name because we felt it was a whole new thing when Frank joined. Frank Sub·Lime deal happened. We feel like God's hand is in this new venture, or

interesting is the group's judicious use of sound effects and samples, decides to open the floodgates and allow us to make inroads into the mainboth on album and on stage. But unlike many groups, Fold Zandura does-stream market, we believe we're ready." n't disguise a lack of musical ability with tape loops. "We knew that, on material is quite different. We want to be a pop band. So, we're all my life."

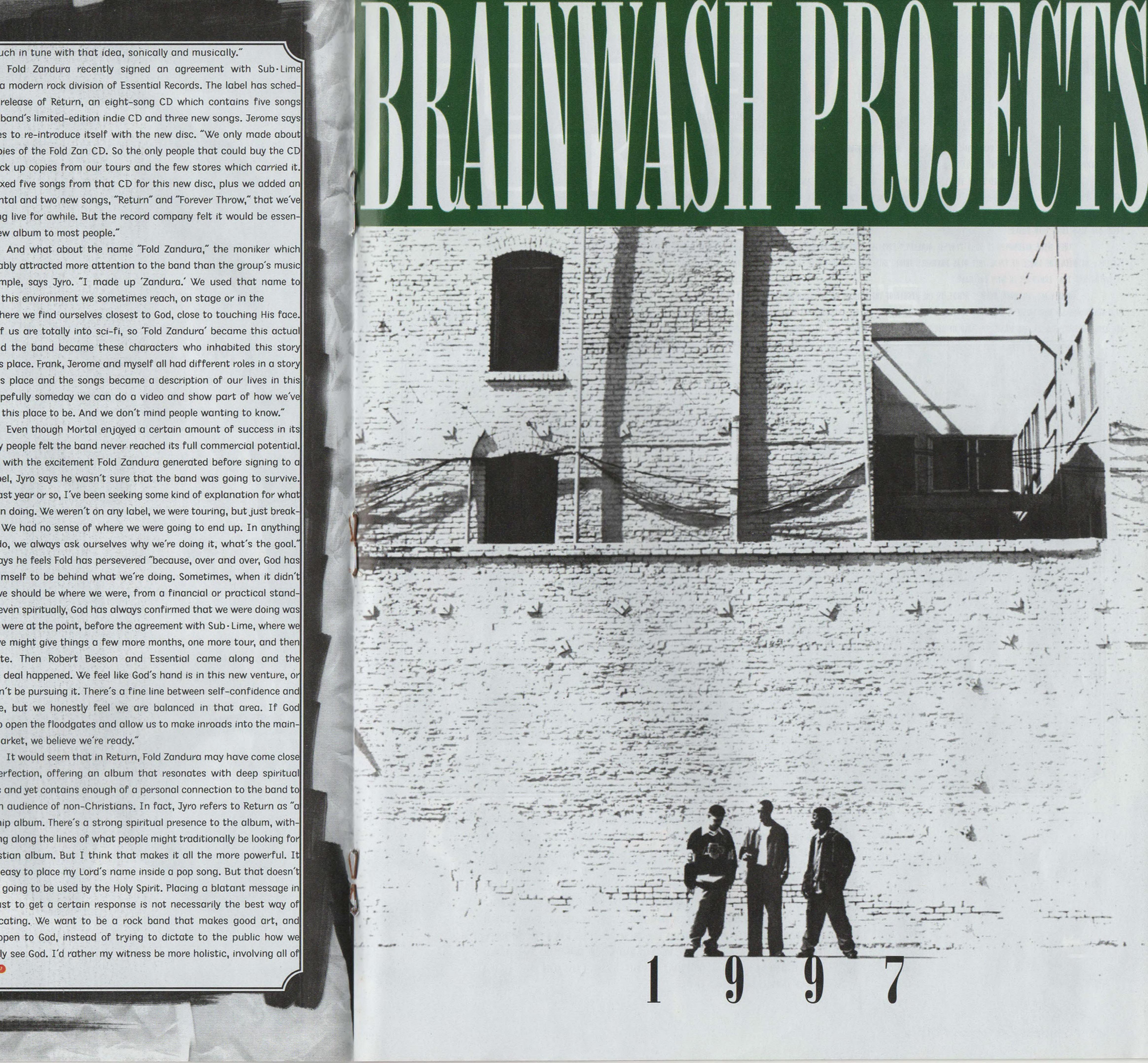
pretty much in tune with that idea, sonically and musically."

Fold Zandura recently signed an agreement with Sub·Lime instrumental and two new songs, "Return" and "Forever Throw," that we've Even though Mortal became one of the first and best-known been doing live for awhile. But the record company felt it would be essen-

studio, where we find ourselves closest to God, close to touching His face. Just prior to the formation of Fold Zandura, Jerome and Jyro Plus all of us are totally into sci-fi, so 'Fold Zandura' became this actual

Even though Mortal enjoyed a certain amount of success in its that we do, we always ask ourselves why we're doing it, what's the goal." Like a lot of the best musical adventures, Jerome says that Fold Jerome says he feels Fold has persevered "because, over and over, God has also sings, which adds a new dimension and makes it feel more like a band." we wouldn't be pursuing it. There's a fine line between self-confidence and Part of the texture which makes the music of Fold Zandura so arrogance, but we honestly feel we are balanced in that area. If God

It would seem that in Return, Fold Zandura may have come close stage, we'd have three people trying to do the job of seven," admits Jyro. to pop perfection, offering an album that resonates with deep spiritual "Jerome and Frank are really the only people I felt I could trust, musi- overtones and yet contains enough of a personal connection to the band to cally. Andy Prickett too, but he couldn't go on tour. It just seemed the attract an audience of non-Christians. In fact, Jyro refers to Return as "a natural thing to do to put stuff on tracks and use samples. Plus, when relationship album. There's a strong spiritual presence to the album, withwe were first trying to formulate our sound, it was the samples that real- out it being along the lines of what people might traditionally be looking for ly made it different from anything else we'd ever done. We knew we had in a Christian album. But I think that makes it all the more powerful. It to incorporate that into our live performances." Jyro feels that approach would be easy to place my Lord's name inside a pop song. But that doesn't has helped make Fold Zandura a very powerful and tight live unit; a band mean it's going to be used by the Holy Spirit. Placing a blatant message in that he says continues to evolve. "Jerome is able to concentrate on a song just to get a certain response is not necessarily the best way of singing and playing bass, instead of having to cover a number of areas. communicating. We want to be a rock band that makes good art, and With Frank, he's the dynamo of the band. His ideas give the songs a dif-remains open to God, instead of trying to dictate to the public how we ferent kind of vibe. And the direction that we're taking with the new specifically see God. I'd rather my witness be more holistic, involving all of



1111 Hall january feliunty 1997 BY MICHAEL TENBRINK

IT ISN'T EVERY DAY A CALIFORNIA ROCK BAND COMES ALONG WITH A HAMMOND ORGAN, MANDOLIN AND HARMONICA IN TOW. BUT THAT IS EXACTLY WHAT SETS APART THE SOUND OF DRYVE.

THE BAND FIRST SPROUTED THREE YEARS AGB IN SAN DIEGO, WHEN CORY VERNER AND PAUL DONOYAN RECORDED AN INDIE TAPE. THE TWO ADDED DRUMMER KEITH ANDREW IN 1994, AND THEN "ADDED A BROTHER EVERY SIX TO EIGHT MONTHS!" SAYS CORY, LAUGHING. STEVE WAS THE FIRST OF THREE PRATSCHNER SIBLINGS TO JOIN; WITHIN A LITTLE OVER A YEAR, HIS BROTHERS MICHAEL AND DAYID HAD ALSO COME INTO DRYVE.

"THEY WERE ACCOMPLISHED HORN PLAYERS ALREADY," EXPLAINS CORY, ONE OF THE BAND'S LEAD VOCALISTS AND GUITAR PLAYERS. "BETWEEN THE THREE OF THEM, THEY PLAY PROBABLY THIRTY DIFFERENT INSTRUMENTS WELL. BUT WE HAD THEM EACH LEARN AN INSTRUMENT THAT COULD FIT IN WITH THE BAND."

THRIFTY MR. KICKSTAR, DRYVE'S DEBUT, IS THE RESULT OF THE MELDING OF SIX BAND MEMBERS, AND AT LEAST TWICE AS MANY INSTRUMENTS. "OUR MUSIC IS WARM AND SOOTHING," SAYS CORY. "IT FITS INTO THE 'ROCK' CATEGORY, I GUESS, BUT IT IS DIVERSE, AND VERY MELODIC. IT'S DRIVING MUSIC, THE KIND OF ALBUM YOU'D TAKE ON A ROAD TRIP WITH YOU."



HE BALKS WHEN ASKED TO COMPARE DRYVE'S SOUND WITH OTHER BANDS, SO ATTEMPTING TO BE HELPFUL, I SUGGEST PERHAPS THE WALLFLOWERS OR COUNTING CROWS. HE LAUGHS: "YOU WON'T BELIEVE THIS, BUT I HAVE BOTH OF THOSE ALBUMS IN MY STEREO RIGHT NOW!"

DRYVE RECENTLY COMPLETED A COLLEGE TOUR WITH DIME STORE PROPHETS AND BLACK EYED SCEVA. CORY SAYS THE BAND LOVED TAKING ITS MUSIC ONTO SECULAR CAMPUSES. "WE'VE HAD THIS DREAM OF PLAYING COLLEGES FOR YEARS NOW, AND THAT MEANS MORE TO US THAN SELLING RECORDS."

WHEN I ASK IF HE CONSIDERS DRYVE TO BE A "CHRISTIAN BAND," HE ANSWERS WITHOUT HESITATION. "NO. I MEAN, WE'RE A CHRISTIAN BAND THE SAME WAY THAT I AM A CHRISTIAN SCREEN-PRINTER, AND YOU'RE A CHRISTIAN WRITER. WE REALLY WANT TO MAKE GOOD MUSIC. YEAH, THE MESSAGE IS THERE, BECAUSE WE ARE CHRISTIANS." HE PAUSES. "I GUESS I JUST NEVER REALLY GOT THAT WHOLE 'CHRISTIAN BAND' THING."

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BY DAVID BUMGARNER

TALK ABOUT HAVING CONNECTIONS! WHEN BLEACH GUITARIST BRAD FORD STRUCK UP A FRIENDSHIP WITH AUDIO ADRENALINE AXE MAN BARRY BLAIR A FEW YEARS BACK, HE HAD NO IDEA THAT THE UNION WOULD LEAD TO THE RECORDING OF BLEACH'S DEBUT ALBUM, SPACE. AS IT HAPPENED, BLAIR WAS INVITED TO PRODUCE THE BAND'S DEMO, AND PASSED IT ON THE BRASS AT FOREFRONT WHO IMMEDIATELY SIGNED BLEACH.

YOU MIGHT THINK SUCH CLOSE ASSOCIATION WITH AN ESTABLISHED BAND WOULD TEMPT THE BLEACH BOYS TO RIP-OFF THEIR SUCCESSFUL PREDECESSORS. NOT SO SAYS LEAD SINGER DAYE BAYSINGER. "I DON'T FEEL LIKE WE'RE IN (AUDIO ADRENALINE'S) SHADOW. I THINK OUR MUSIC'S A LITTLE DIFFERENT." DEFINITELY. THE TRUTH IS, RATHER THAN COMING OFF AS AUDIO A./GIN BLOSSOMS WANNA-BES, THEIR SOUND MORE CLOSELY RESEMBLE SMASHING PUMPKINS WITH A FEW MORE HOOKS, MINUS ALL THE GLOOM AND DOOM. ALTHOUGH, SAYS DRUMMER MATT GINGERICH, WHO ALONG WITH BASSIST TODD KIRBY PROVIDES THE RHYTHM, "WE NEVER HAVE THE INTENTION OF SOUNDING LIKE ANYBODY." ADDS BAYSINGER, "WE'RE STILL PRETTY GARAGE BAND-Y. IT'S HARD TO FORGET HOW FAR GOD'S BROUGHT US."

THE BAND'S NAME COMES FROM THE BELIEF THAT "WHEN GOD FORGIVES YOUR SINS, HE DOESN'T JUST WASH YOU UP A LITTLE BIT. HE BLEACHES YOU AND HANGS YOU OUT TO DRY," SAYS FORD. SAM BARNHART WHO SPEARHEADS BLEACH'S TWIN-GUITAR ATTACK CHIMES IN, "IT'S HARD-CORE CLEANSING."



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For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. Rom. 3:23

For the wages of sin is death. Rom. 6:23

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Rom. 5:8

That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved. Rom. 10:9

Prayer: Jesus, I know I am a sinner and need your forgiveness. I now turn from my sins and ask you into my life to be my Savior and Lord. Forgive my sins and give me your gift of eternal life. Thank you for dying for me and saving me.

"I am the Way, the Truth and the Life."
John 14:6

Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved. Rom. 10:13

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To Yourself — Mt. 22:3 - Love your neighbor as yourself.

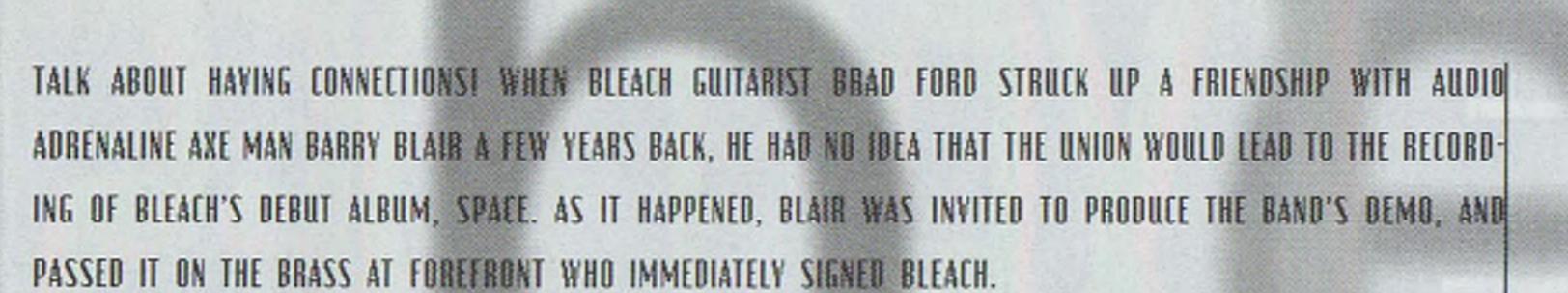
To family — Phil. 4:5 - Always be gentle with others. The Lord will soon be here.

To Friends — Jn. 15:13 - Greater love hath no man than this, than a man lay down his life for his friends.

To Future Mate & Children — 2 Tim. 2:22 - Run from temptations that capture young people. Always do the right thing. Be faithful, loving, and easy to get along with. Worship

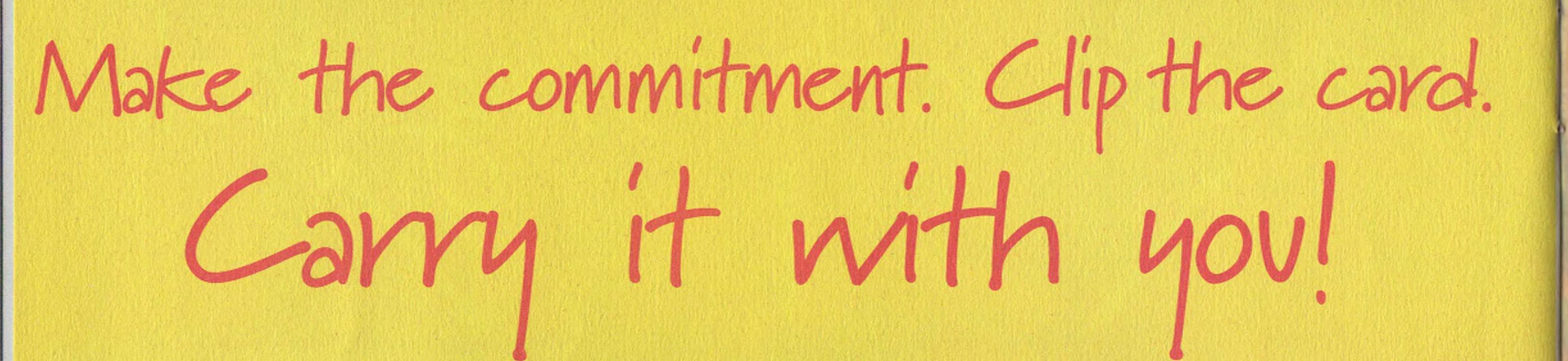
with people whose hearts are pure.

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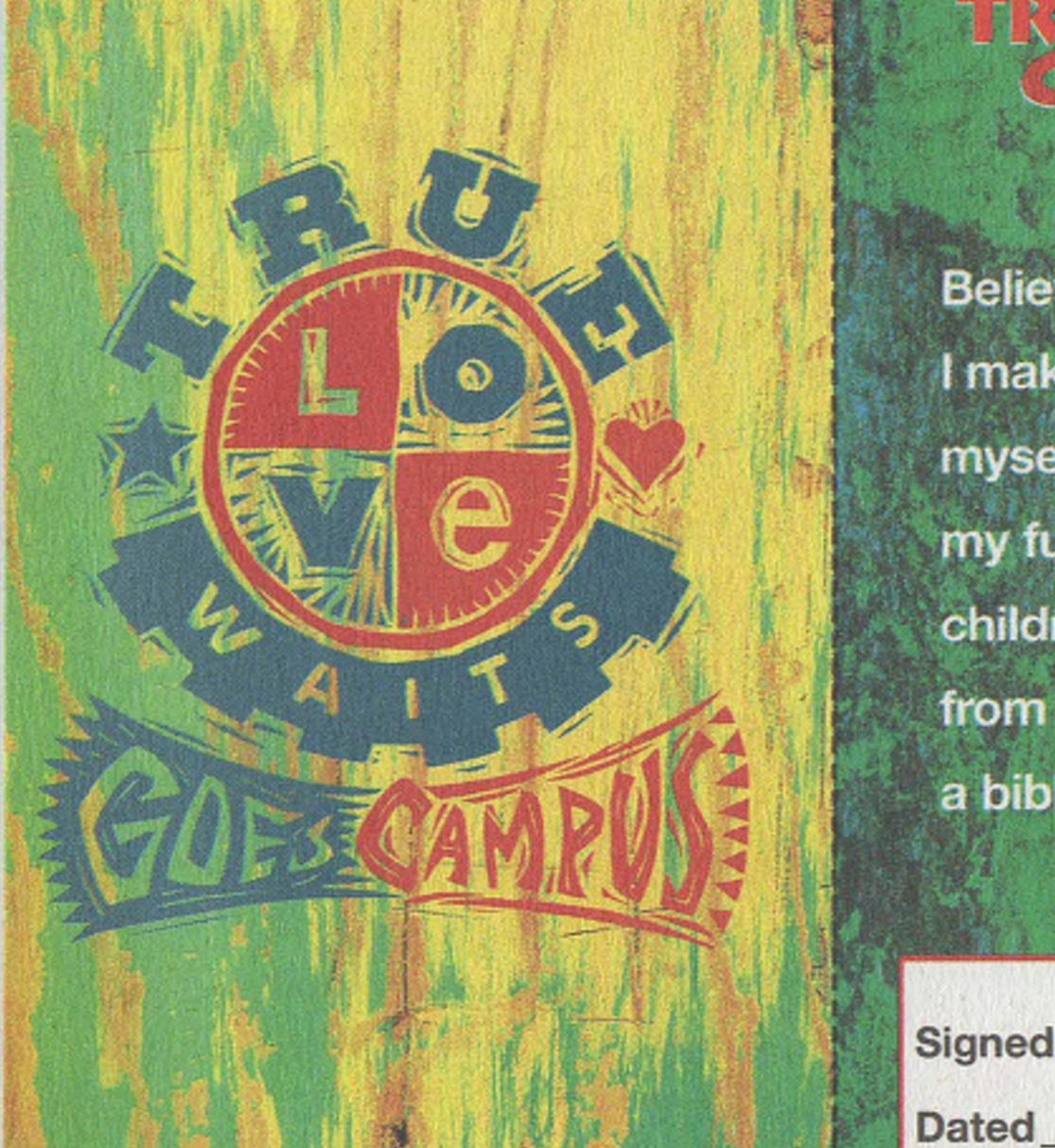


YOU MIGHT THINK SUCH CLOSE ASSOCIATION WITH AN ESTABLISHED BAND WOULD TEMPT THE BLEACH BOYS TO RIP-OFF THEIR SUCCESSFUL PREDECESSORS. NOT SO SAYS LEAD SINGER DAVE BAYSINGER. "I DON'T FEEL LIKE WE'RE IN (AUDIO ADRENALINE'S) SHADOW. I THINK BUR MUSIC'S A LITTLE DIFFERENT." DEFINITELY. THE TRUTH IS, RATHER THAN COMING OFF AS AUDIO A./GIN BLOSSOMS WANNA-BES, THEIR SOUND MORE CLOSELY RESEMBLE SMASHING PUMPKINS WITH A FEW MORE HOOKS, MINUS ALL THE GLOOM AND DOOM. ALTHOUGH, SAYS DRUMMER MATT GINGERICH, WHO ALONG WITH BASSIST TOOD KIRBY PROVIDES THE RHYTHM, "WE NEVER HAVE THE INTENTION OF SOUNDING LIKE ANYBODY." ADDS BAYSINGER, "WE'RE STILL PRETTY GARAGE BAND-Y. IT'S HARD TO FORGET HOW FAR GOD'S BROUGHT US."

THE BAND'S NAME COMES FROM THE BELIEF THAT "WHEN GOD FORGIVES YOUR SINS, HE DOESN'T JUST WASH YOU UP A LITTLE BIT. HE BLEACHES YOU AND HANGS YOU OUT TO DRY," SAYS FORD. SAM BARNHART WHO SPEARHEADS BLEACH'S TWIN-GUITAR ATTACK CHIMES IN, "IT'S HARD-CORE CLEANSING."



BY DAVID BUMGARNER



RUE LOYE MALT

Believing that *True Love Waits*,
I make a commitment to God,
myself, my family, my friends,
my future mate, and my future
children to be sexually abstinent
from this day until the day I enter
a biblical marriage relationship.

Signed _____

MAKE
A
COMMITMENT
TO
PURITY



BY CHAO BONHAM

MIKE LEWIS MAKES NO BONES ABOUT THE PHILOSOPHY OF HIS NEW DAND PULLER. IT'S NOT THE MOST POPULAR STANCE TO TAKE IN CHRISTIAN MUSIC THESE BAYS. BUT LEWIS IS STICKING TO HIS GUNS NONETHELESS.

"OUR HEART IS TO GET INTO THE MAINSTREAM." LEWIS SAYS, "BUT WE'RE NOT THAT CHOOSY. WE'LL PLAY ANYWHERE I FRONT OF ANYONE. IF THE KIDS ARE THERE, WE'LL PLAY."

LEWIS IS QUITE FAMILIAR WITH THE CLUB SCENE, HAVING SPENT SEVEN YEARS IN THE HIGHLY-ACCLAIMED BAND FOR LOVE MEASURE OF SUCCESS WASN'T WORTH IT ANYMORE.

NO ONE REALLY LIKED EACH OTHER."



LEWIS ENTERTAINED THE NOTION OF ATTENDING FILM SCHOOL AFTER SHOWING PROMISE IN THE DIRECTION OF TWO VIDEOS FOR LOVE NOT LISA, BUT EVENTUALLY HE AND HIS WIFE TURNED THEIR ATTENTION TOWARDS THE 108 COFFEE CLUB, A UNIQUE YOUTH MINISTRY OUTLET THE PAIR BPENED LAST NOVEMBER IN DOWNTOWN EDMOND. A REJUVENATED LEWIS DECIDED TO JUMP BACK INTO MUSIC AND FORMED PULLER. SINCE THEN, THE BAND HAS RECORDED ITS DEBUT ALBUM SUGARLESS AND TOURED WITH STAVESACRE, IN A WELL-BALANCED MATCHUP OF PASSIONATE, AGGRESSIVE, GUITAR-DRIVEN BUTFITS.

"I'M NOT A TALKER. I'M MORE OF A DOER," LEWIS SAYS. "I USED TO BE A TALKER AND PEOPLE NOW COME UP AND SAY, 'YOU BON'T TALK ENOUGH AT SHOWS.' I'M NOT INTO THE PEP TALK OR THE CHEERLEADING FOR GOD. WE'RE JUST GOING TO ROCK AND PLAY AS HARD AS WE CAN, AND IF GOD LAYS SOMETHING ON MY HEART THEN I'LL SHARE IT. BUT IF HE DOESN'T, I'M GOING TO KEEP MY MOUTH SHUT."

Hall january / foliancy 1997

Today there's plenty of stuff to fill up my mind. All the arguments about abortion. And the threat of AIDS. There's a war in Bosnia. And a crisis in Croatia. I don't get girls. And I don't get bigotry. We have to balance the federal budget. But I never have enough to balance my own budget. What about condoms in high schools - and in my school? What do I make of Kurt Cobain? And using cocaine? What should I think about the deficit? The Democrats? The devil? Should I get an earring? A nose ring? I'm worried about the environment. Family Values. And my Values. Generation gaps. Generation X. Should I worry about Gingrich? My grades? Or my girlfriend? There's too much harassment. And too many hypocrites. I can't tolerate intolerance. Will there be any jobs when I graduate? I don't know what to think about Medicare, MTV, or militias. I surf the Net. NC-17. Pearl Jam. Politics. And porn. What do I do about poverty? Are the Republicans right? Is the radical right wrong? The real world vs. "The Real World." Nintendo vs. Sega. Rock and roll. Rush Limbaugh. Oklahoma City. Racism and riots. Who are the Serbs? When did Sex get so complicated – homosex, bisex, heterosex.

Safe sex? No sex? Tattoos. Do I watch too much television? Music videos? Video games?

There's a battle for my mind. And I want the Spirit to win.

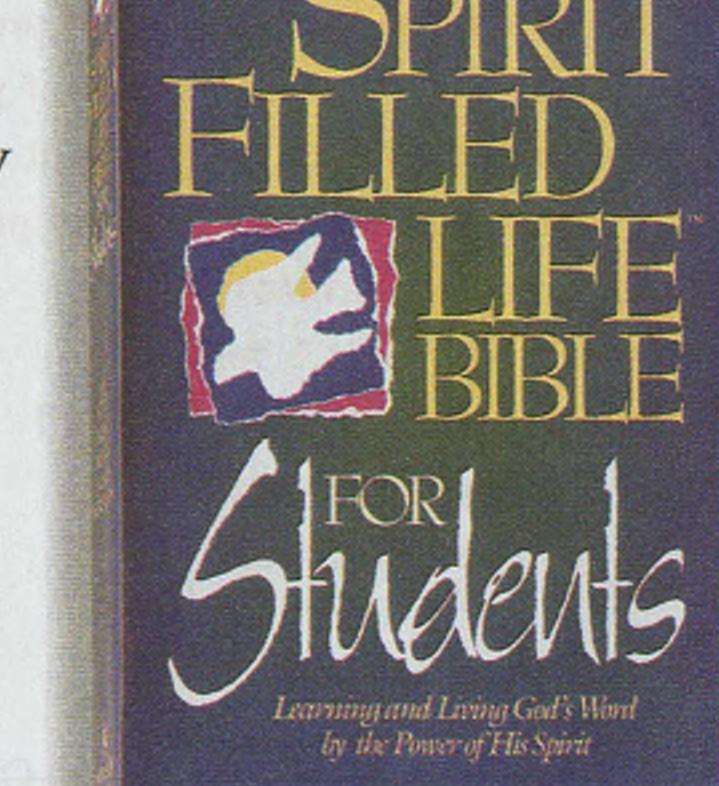


The Spirit Filled Life™ Bible for Students is crammed with fresh applications and insights for young people growing up in a wacky world. It's relevant. It's interesting. And, in a world where nothing seems to make much sense anymore, it illustrates just how practical and reasonable spiritual truth is - even today.

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So get ready for the most radical thing to come down the pike in a while. The Spirit Filled Life™ Bible for Students. THOMAS NELSON PUBLISHERS

It's the only student Bible for Charismatics and Pentecostals. And it'll be exactly what you'd want a student Bible to be: used.



In most Christian circles, our emotions are seen as our enemies, subverting our ability to listen to the still, small voice of the Holy Spirit. Yet, there they are every day, reminding us of our humanity. So how cool it is that the first words Mike Herrera sings on the new MxPx disc are "Emotion is my middle name." Cooler still is the fact

that much of Life In General is simply about, well, life.

A part of that does concern the faith of the band, but often not in the traditional or expected ways. The bulk of the tunes focus on Mike, Tom and Yuri just being guys, and how they deal with everyday stuff like girls,

school, family, chicks, homework and girls (sensing a theme here?). Sure, they're the premiere group playing Christian punk, so we'll give them a little slack in terms of perhaps zeroing too tightly on a particular range of subject matter. Besides, many songwriters seem to feel that their faith exists in a vacuum; that, for some reason, the mundane experiences that shape the bulk of our lives aren't as much fun to write about as the more spectacular events. Mike has no such problem. "Do Your Feet Hurt," for instance, reverses the formula of a fan being devoted to an artist. This track

MxPx Life In General Tooth & Nail

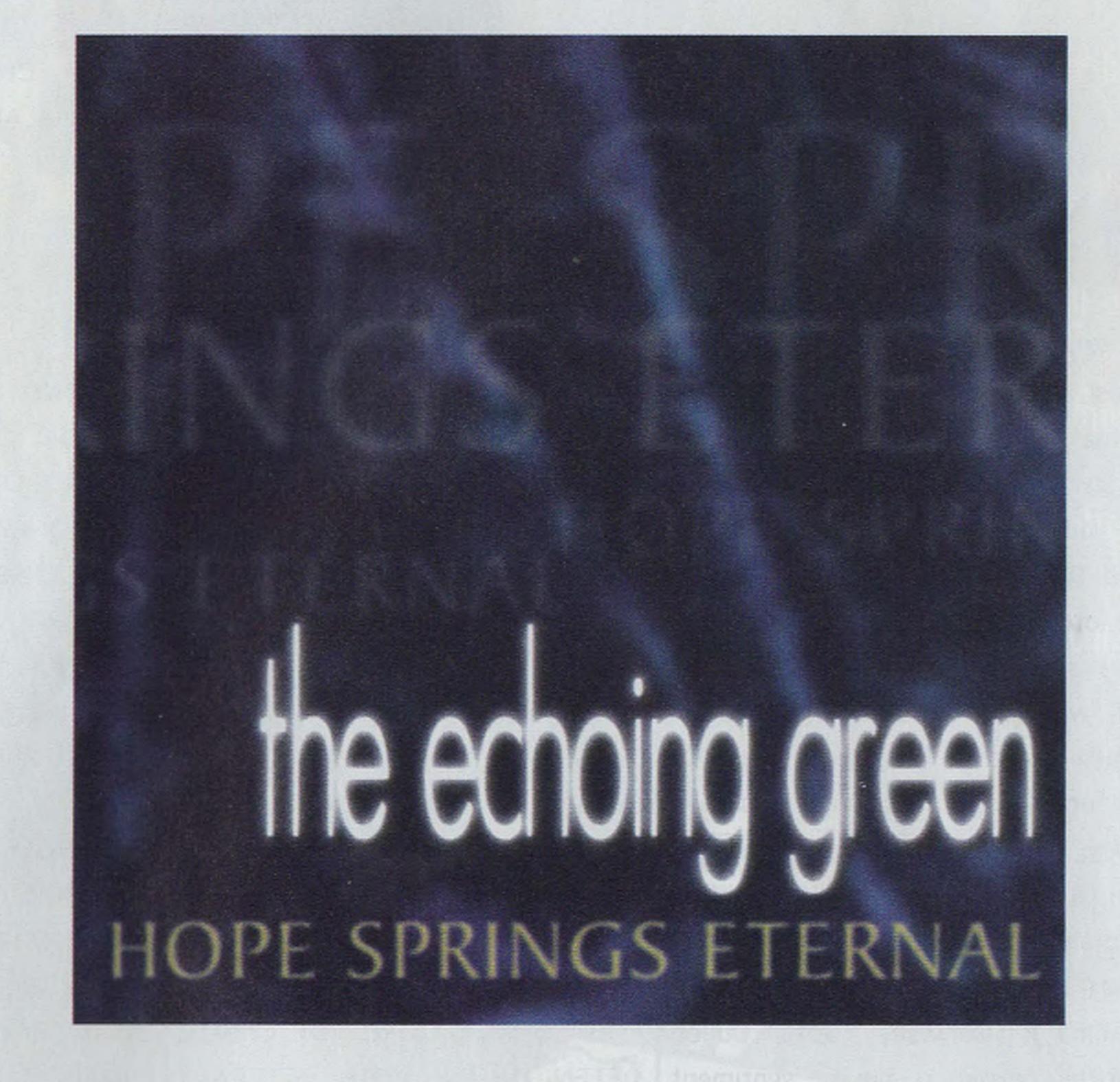


Vespa," and to "climb up to your window and read you a poem." Later, in the pop gem "Move To Bremerton," Herrera laments the fact that the special girls he meets always live "somewhere else in the world." So he devises a plan to entice them to his Washington home by changing "the street signs you drive down/so you end up in my town" and re-drawing the maps "so they all lead to Bremerton." In case the depth of his feelings has escaped the young lady, Mike closes with "If you owned a brain and use it too/You gotta know that I'd have a crush on you." The female fascination is carried to its logical (or perhaps, illogical) extreme in "Chick Magnet," the guy who, Herrera cautions, is "gonna settle down/if he meets that special girl soon." Herrera does encourage listeners to think independently ("Your

feel that their faith exists in a vacuum; that, for some reason, the mundane experiences that shape the bulk of our lives aren't as much fun to write about as the mount of biblical vocabulary for some listeners. But it's true to the tradimore spectacular events.

Problem, My Emergency, "Sometimes You Have To Ask Yourself") and Mike allows himself moments of reflection and doubt as well ("The Wonder Years," "My Mom Still Cleans My Room"). As far as the music goes, Mike, Yuri & Tom are the bomb. They rock, they smoke, they make you hair stand on end (even if you use lots 'o gel). Life In General may not contain the requisite amount of biblical vocabulary for some listeners. But it's true to the tradimore spectacular events.

-Bruce A. Brown



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CHAOS IS THE POETRY ALARMA!

Morella's Forest Iltraphonic Hiss Tooth & Nail

When you first read titles such as "Candy

Necklace Kind of Love," "Lime Velvet Love Seat," "Butter Scotch Boy," "Tangerine Drops," "Silver Syrup" and "Pastel Straws," you may think you're perusing the menu at the local Dairy Queen instead of looking at the cover of the latest Morella's Forest album. And yes, you may be tempted, as I was at first glance, to ask yourself "what the heck does this song have to do with butterscotch?" And, like myself, lost in the search for obvious connections,

approach, juxtapos- confection.

ing the soothing voice of singer/lyricist Sydney with the rhythm spring of Nathan and the guitar attack of Shawn & Sean. Lest you get lost in some of the almost too cute titles, Sydney does provide some ideas to chew on beneath the candy-coated mar-

PROLIFIC FOR HIS OWN GOOD, HE'S BEEN THE GUIDING FORCES BEHIND SUCH VARIED PROJECTS AS A REGGAE PRAISE RECORD, A BLUES CHRISTMAS RAYMOND CHANDLER) TO THE GENTLE RECORD AND MAGDALLAN. HIS OWN LONGING OF "GOD'S EMPTY CHAIR" TO SOLO RECORDS HAVE MESHED TOGETHER THE TALE OF INTERRACIAL VIOLENCE IN DISPARATE AND EXOTIC INSTRUMENTS "THE LONGEST DAY IN MRS. EVERS' LIFE" AND SOUNDS TO CREATE A COLLAGE THAT (A SUCCESSFUL CROSS-POLLINATION OF IS AS ECLECTIC AS IT IS MESMERIZING. HARD ROCK AND RAP), CHAOS IS THE WHICH, OF COURSE, MAKES HIM IMPOSSI- POETRY IS A PROJECT THAT DEALS WITH BLE TO MARKET. WITH CHAOS IS THE THE WHOLENESS OF THE GOSPEL, IN HOW POETRY-ESSENTIALLY A NEW VERSION IT INTERSECTS WITH THE NEEDS OF OF MAGDALLAN-CORDOLA, PHILIP SOCIETY AND THE INDIVIDUAL.

SOMETIMES, LANNY CORDOLA IS TOO

sophisticated noise lyrics make Ultraphonic Hiss an inviting "DEAD WALKING CUPIE DOLL" SOME. -BAB (LIKE SOMETHING OUT OF

you'd miss some anyway;" "Silver Syrup" finds the singer BARDOWELL AND CHUCK WRIGHT MUSICALLY, THE RECORD COVERS BROAD music and taking a plunge which could easily be HAVE CONCOCTED A AN UNTHINK- TERRITORY AS WELL, REINFORCING THE clever lyrical points. Interpreted as making a commitment to ABLY GOOD RECORD, A HARD ROCK MESSAGE WITH CLASS. IF YOU LIKE TO In less than two Christ ("I opened my eyes when I fell off ALBUM WITH JAZZ PANACHE AND CRANK UP YOUR MUSIC, BUT YOU WANT years, MF has made the cliff"); likewise, "Gate Called POP HOOKS GALORE. THE LYRICS, IT TO HAVE INTELLIGENCE AND WIT, incredible strides as a Beautiful" carries a similar sentiment OFTEN THICK WITH LITERARY CHAOS IS THE POETRY COULD BE THE touring and recording ("Finding such a gift/was not done on IMPACT, REQUIRE REPEATED READ- MOST ACCOMPLISHED AND INTELLECTUband. The group has my own"). Bright melodies peppered INGS TO FULLY FATHOM: FROM THE AL HARD ROCK ALBUM SINCE EXTREME'S begun to perfect its with distorted guitars and inventive DARK, ANGULAR NARRATIVE OF III SIDES TO EVERY STORY. AND THEN

-CHRIS WELL

the latest & the greatest

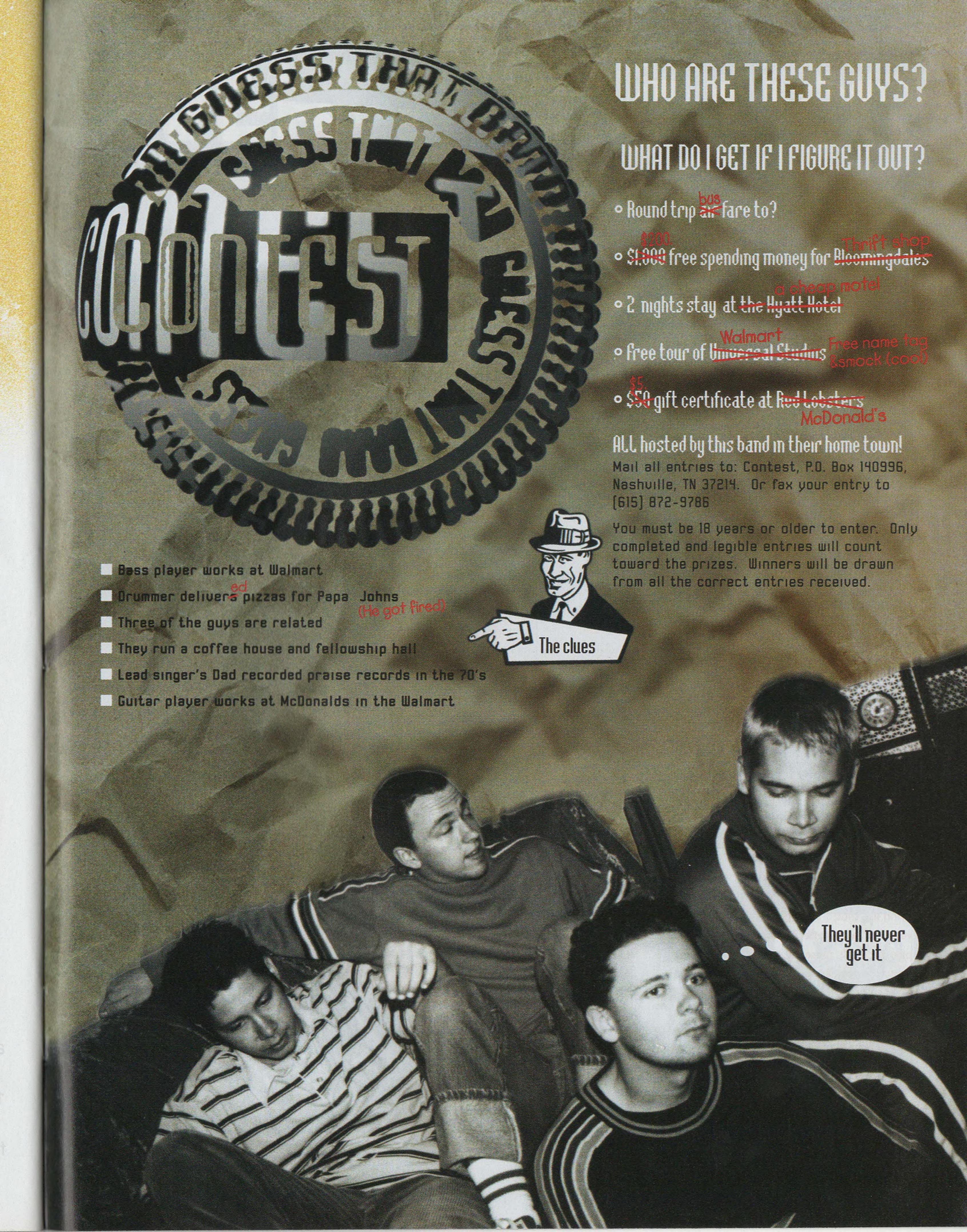
quee. "Glitter" finds her affirming that "Now I Great art is often born of great pain. Suffering can alter know how I feel/What is false and what is real/I an artist's perspective to focus on the deeper issues of thought I knew before/but you're in the picture life: Love, belonging, regret, joy, death. Mortality is



now;" "Pastel Straws" (perhaps referring to the last something the members of Luxury have spent the past year-and-a-half contemplating, after straw?) contains the interesting observation that three band mates were nearly fatally injured in a car wreck following the '95 Cornerstone "Trouble has a way of finding out where you live Festival. Though it had a number of songs written for a new project, when the Luxury mem-

bers were recovered enough to actually start recording, most of the tracks got scrapped as too superficial. However, the new songs the group came up with take a surprising turn, considering its ordeal. On its first album, Amazing and Thank You, Luxury, while in perfect health, recorded an album of melancholy, ache and sadness. For the follow-up, Luxury sings an anthem to the joy of living with the spectre of death fresh in its mind. "This is my time to say what's on my mind/and try to move your soul as well as I am able," Jamey Bozeman sings in "From The Lion Within," and cries carpe diem with the chorus, "Now that you are free/be what you will be/and have the wonderful world of luxury." Musically, Luxury has undergone as profound a transformation as it has lyrically. Jamey Bozeman's vocals still at times recall the droll inflection of Morrissey, but now, with his new sunny disposition, Bozeman sounds like Morrissey on Prozac. And instead of Amazing's melodic drone, the Latest puts Lee Bozeman's guitar comfortably up front, constructing a handful of catchy, listener-friendly, near-rock anthems on the front end of the record and several haunting acoustic ballads on the back half. It also helps that there's not one bad song in the set. If the latest has the staying power to keep me coming back to it as often as I'm listening to it these days, it will be a contender for my best of '97 list.

-Brad Caviness





What About now Freedom Records

While The Kry has regularly been a

Thrifty Mr. Kickstar 5 Minute Walk

> Dryve is a San Diego, CA-based band which has

already drawn comparisons to a number of "organic" rock artists, such as Counting Crows, Tom Petty, Wilco and Gin Blossoms. The group mixes modern rock hooks with the classic sound of Hammond B3 organ, Fender Rhodes electric piano, accordion, mandolin and harmonica. While not the first in Christian music to sport this roughhewn sound, Dryve is one of the best bands I've heard in some time, and has an excellent chance to break out, due to

Pratscher, all of whom Dryve appears to be in high gear. excel on multiple instruments. The matter-of-fact simplicity of Dryve's music also carries over to its yrics (both penned as a

bining church camp-friendly singalong mic rock beat, with gentle songs with left-of-Bryan Adams pop-rock, touches here and there to almost nobody could have expected the imply the mixed curse of leavsurprise of What About Now. With a an ing home behind. The meek eye-opening intro that flows seamlessly "Down at the Cross" is a genfrom symphonic strings into world-beat tle, acoustic reminder that, clattering, then weaving into an 80's for all of the superficial elewave-ish guitar and bass groove before ments that separate us from plunging into guitar heavy rock n' roll, the one another, we are all equal one-two punch of the introductory "The in our need for the Cross. "By

SaraBellum's connection to | under my skin...I need You at my | fans expect—but they have also | Testament Psalm written for the Warner distribution throat," and "It's My Fault" is an amaz- brought a lot more variety to their an Old West audience and system. Musically, all six ingly honest song about a troubled rela- sound, as they explore the urgency played by a 60's garage band. members of Dryve are quite tionship ("I forgive me and God forgives and the consequences in deciding Ultimately, the plain lyrical good, with special note me/So when will you?"). Dryve even whether to accept or reject Christ. approach on What About Now going to vocalist Cory does a deft turn at a praise chorus in The track "Jason," a tribute to mis- will be a relief to listeners who Verner, guitarists Steve "Rain" ("Rain down on me/And I will sionaries and to the sacrifices they tire of translating the para-Pratscher & Paul Donovan | believe"). With over 30 shows under its | make for the cause of taking the | bles of some alternative songand keyboardist David belt and at least 100 planned for '97, Gospel to the four corners of the writers; the musical variety Earth, is couched with a polyrhyth- ensures it never gets dull.

-FATHER MOSH

Search" and the first full song, "Paradise," | the Rivers of Babylon" bears

shows that The Kry means business. They the sort of multi-genre treat-

haven't abandoned the melodic qualities | ment that implies an Old

"Nervous" finds the band AS A SIMPLE NIRVANA WANNA-BE (OR, PERISH, THE THOUGHT, ANOTHrealizing when "it's been ER *BUSH*), THE TRIO IN SKILLET ARE ACTUALLY ADEPT AT CREATING

FOREFRONT collective). ALTHOUGH AT FIRST GLANCE SOME MAY WANT TO WRITE THIS BAND OFF

too long running on luck" POWERFUL MUSICAL IMAGES AND INHABITING THEM WITH CLEVER, SINEWY LYRICAL COLLAGES. THE END RESULT IS that it can count on "Your ROCK N' ROLL THAT YOU TURN UP LOUD AND THEN MULL OVER LATER IN QUIET TIME, WHAT MAKES THE RECORD STANDcoming in the flesh and OUT IS THEIR UNUSUAL CHOICE OF METAPHORS WHEN DESCRIBING LOFTY, SPIRITUAL CONCEPTS: FROM THE SWEET dying like that; "Stay" con- GRUNGE-BALLAD "SATURN" (WHICH FINDS NOVEL WAYS TO EXPLAIN THE ASTRONOMICAL LOVE OF GOD), TO THE VIOveys an even more direct LENT WORD CHOICES IN "GASOLINE" (WHICH CONSIDERS THE VALUE OF KILLING THE FLESH THAT THE SOUL MIGHT BE plea for God's presence, as SAVED), THE LYRICS ARE AT ONCE UNPREDICTABLE, YET MAKE THEIR POINTS SOLIDLY. MUSICALLY, THE TRIO PACK A Verner sings "I need You SUREFIRE WALLOP-ON SEVERAL TRACKS, THE THREE FORM A DRIVING, RHYTHMIC FORCE, ENVELOPING THE LISTENER SO CLOSELY IT'S IMPOSSIBLE NOT TO SING ALONG WHEN THE HARMONIES KICK IN. AT OTHER TIMES, THE TRIO LENDS A SURPRISING WEIGHT TO THE FEW BALLADS, AS WELL. IN ALL CASES, THE URGENCY IN JOHN COOPER'S VOICE, HIS DES-PERATE AND RASPY PLEAS FOR SALVATION, MAKES HIM AN EVERYMAN LISTENERS CAN EASILY IDENTIFY WITH-AND GUARANTEES THAT NOT EVEN THE "RADIO FRIENDLY" SONGS WILL GET PAST THE LOCAL AC CENSOR. THESE "BALLADS" ONLY FIT IN WITH AC IF YOU THINK, SAY, SOUL ASYLUM AND WHEN THE SYSTEM WORKS, IT WORKS VERY WELL-SOME OF THESE SONGS ARE IMPOSSIBLE TO IGNORE, AND, ALTHOUGH THERE ARE MOMENTS ON THE RECORD WHERE THE "GRUNGE WANNA-BE" TAGS ARE IMPOSSIBLE TO EXPLAIN AWAY, THIS SELF-TITLED DEBUT SURELY FINDS SKILLET TO BE A YOUNG BAND WITH LOADS OF POTENTIAL. AND THEY LIKE TO ROCK.

---RIDINGS THOMPSON-BROOKS

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EWERY BODY DUG

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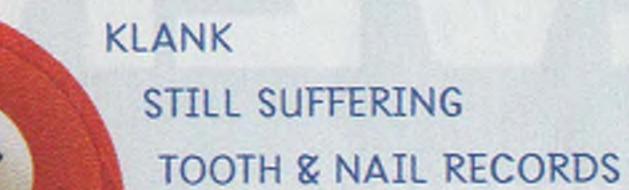
MISIG

Undercover
Anthology
Volume 1
Innocent

Even the most naive new-

comer would probably not insist that Christian punk began with MxPx or even Crashdog. No, the roots of punk were firmly planted in Orange County, California, in the early 1980s, by Undercover. The band was formed by believers as a direct response to the music that was inundating the New Wave/Alternative clubs, championed by nationally-known acts like Hüsker Dü, The Replacements, The Ramones and The Clash. Undercover, led by founders Joey Taylor, Gym Nicholson, Rick Alba and Bill Walden, attempted to harness some of the recklessness and anger which fueled the punk movement, and put a more positive twist on the songs. Where the Sex Pistols sang, "I am an anarchist, I am the anti-Christ," Undercover sang "You'll have to excuse us, we're in love with Jesus." Where The Ramones sang "I wanna be sedated" and "beat on the brat with a baseball bat," Undercover sang "I'll be a fool for You" and later (more solemnly) "God came down and died for kids like you and me," "I cried last night/first time in years" and "When I was away from you/I had plenty of nothing here to do." Unlike secular punk music, which found artists blaming everyone but themselves for the world's ills, Undercover's music (especially on its fourth album, Branded) was full of self-loathing, doubt, anxiety and guilt. Not the happy post-salvation pap of much Christian music, not even the core of the bouncy, pogo-pop of Undercover's first couple albums. Indeed, Nicholson's "Cry Myself To Sleep" contains some of the most gut-wrenching lyrics ever penned in Christian rock—("It's hard to fall asleep/when I hate the life I lead...It's easier telling lies/when I'm dying inside/than to open up my heart/and have it torn apart..."). The production on these albums, while basic, holds up surprisingly well. The musicianship, while not sophisticated, serves the songs more than adequately. Like many bands who got to a certain place first, Undercover was not necessarily the best at what they did. Daniel Amos took New Wave to new heights, The Choir grafted complex arrangements onto basic chord structures and Mike Knott certainly broke the mold when it came to honest lyrics. But none of those artists would likely have achieved what they have without the contribution of Undercover. Stayed tuned for Volume 2...

-ВАВ



IT SEEMS LIKE, WITH THE ALBUM
TITLE BEING WHAT IT IS, WITH
SONG TITLES LIKE "DOWNSIDE,"

"BURNING," "DECEIVED," AND "DISEASE" AND WITH AN ALBUM COVER THAT LOOKS LIKE A PROMO POSTER FOR A VERY INTENSE SCIENCE FICTION FILM, KLANK WANTS TO SCARE THE PANTS OFF OF YOU. KLANK, WHICH IS IN STRANGER DIOLOSA, GOTHIC/INDUSTRIAL/TECHNO/METALLIC APPROACH. DIOLOSA'S LONG ASSO-CIATION WITH PREMIERE CHRISTIAN INDUSTRIAL BAND CIRCLE OF DUST HAS NO DOUBT PREPARED HIM TO TAKE A LEGITIMATE AND WELL-QUALIFIED SWING AT THIS EXTREMELY PERSONAL AND OFTEN FRIGHTENING MUSIC. ON A STRICTLY SENSORY LEVEL, KLANK PRETTY MUCH SUCCEEDS IN HIS TASK. ALTHOUGH NOT AS AGGRESSIVE AS CIRCLE OF DUST, KLANK INSTANTLY GRABS THE LISTENER WITH INSISTENT BEATS, GRINDING GUITARS AND ENGAGING VOCALS. HOWEVER, DIOLOSA ESCHEWS THE TYPICAL INDUSTRIAL APPROACH TO DELIVERING HIS PROVOCATIVE LYRICS. RATHER THAN BURY THE WORDS UNDER LAYERS OF DISTORTION-A FAIRLY STANDARD PRACTICE FOR INDUS-TRIAL MUSIC-DIOLOSA ACTUALLY SINGS, IN A VERY INTELLIGIBLE GROWL WHICH SPLITS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN INDUSTRIAL AND METAL. CONSEQUENTLY, YOU CAN UNDERSTAND THE HARROWING LYRICS, ACTUALLY MAGNIFYING THE IMPACT OF THE MUSIC. IN "DECEIVED," DIOLOSA'S GRUFF VOICE CARRIES A GREAT DEAL OF EMPATHY WHEN HE SINGS A LINE AS SIMPLE AS "YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS TO BE ME/I WAS LIED TO AND FLAT OUT DECEIVED;" DIOLOSA DOESN'T DISGUISE HIS DISGUST FOR THE WORLD IN "ANIMOSITY," AS HE SHOUTS "I HATE THIS WORLD AND ALL IT HAS TO OFFER/IF I HAD A CHOICE, I'D RATHER BE DEAD," WHILE THE CLOSING "WOODENSOUL" SEES THE SINGER BEGGING GOD FOR RELEASE IN HIS SPIRIT ("MY SAVIOR BLEEDS/CALLOUSED HANDS, WITH FURY'S NEED/TO BREAK MY WOODEN SOUL"). ALTHOUGH OFTEN NOT AS SCARY AS YOU'D WISH, STILL SUFFERING IS STILL A MOST IMPRESSIVE DISC.

---ВА

Whitecross Flytrap



Scott Wenzel has been dealing with the end of the 80s since, well, since the beginning of the 90s. While many thought the departure

of guitar master Rex Carroll signalled the end of the band—and the two Jimmie Lee Sloas-produced records were simply a sort of holding pattern—Wenzel has reemerged with a warmer, more human hard rock sound with Flytrap. With a new band behind him (bassist Brent Denney on bass, guitarist Quinton Gibson and drummer Troy Stone), and a new producer at the helm (David Zaffiro), Wenzel seems refreshed. Gone are the glam rock trappings of earlier Whitecross works, and gone are the strange, if interesting, pop recipes of the last two records. Flytrap finds Wenzel reigning that voice in—less high-pitched whining—as the unit heads for a more timeless brand of hard rock. Flytrap rocks.

-CsW

This year, get inside ska....

The Insuferz motorcityska

file under Godeore/Ska

Dr. Onionskin Split Pea Soup Velocity Music Group (N'Soul)

> First impressions can be unforgiving. Take for

instance the two-year-old debut of Shane Ries, a.k.a. Hymn Jim. It was an exercise in retro frivolity and did little to encourage any hope for a musical future. Hoping for a new start (or perhaps just to commemorate a new musical direction), Ries has returned as Dr. Onionskin to offer Split Pea Soup.

Unlike Ries' jumbled mess of a debut, Split Pea Soup is a creative blend of acid jazz and straight-up hiphop with a clearly-defined direction. Ries is responsible for the majority of the playing with help from notables Aaron Delacruz on keyboards and Patrick Caro on bass. The samples and live music are intertwined so well, it's often hard to differentiate between the two.

From the loungey, George Benson-influenced guitars of "Shady Day" and the disco-flavored "Get Into It," to the spacy, Earth Wind & Fire-branded "Odyssey 5," Split Pea Soup is the Christian market's most successful attempt at youth-oriented modern jazz to date. Kudos to Ries for proving us all wrong.

-Chad Bonham

Collision Point by Doug Brumley

Welcome to 7ball's look at the collision point between music and multimedia. Here you'll

find web and CD-ROM reviews. We'll also recognize those projects and sites that push the interactive envelope. (Since the web is constantly in transition, be aware that content, features, and perhaps even addresses mentioned may have changed since press time.)

The Lighthouse electronic Magazine http://tlem.netcentral.net

If you've been on the web and you haven't been to the Lighthouse electronic Magazine, what are you waiting for? It is, without a doubt, the single-most informative and well-organized Christian music spot on the net. Not only does the online magazine include

the features, reviews, previews and news you'd expect to find, but it also provides readers with editorials, columns, and an overwhelming list of links and resources for everything concerning the Christian music industry. The Lighthouse presents this information through a clean, attractive layout, and even offers a "lite" version (fewer images) for those with slower connections. What makes the site even more amazing is the fact that everyone involved works solely on a volunteer basis.

your

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and you just might see it reviewed here!





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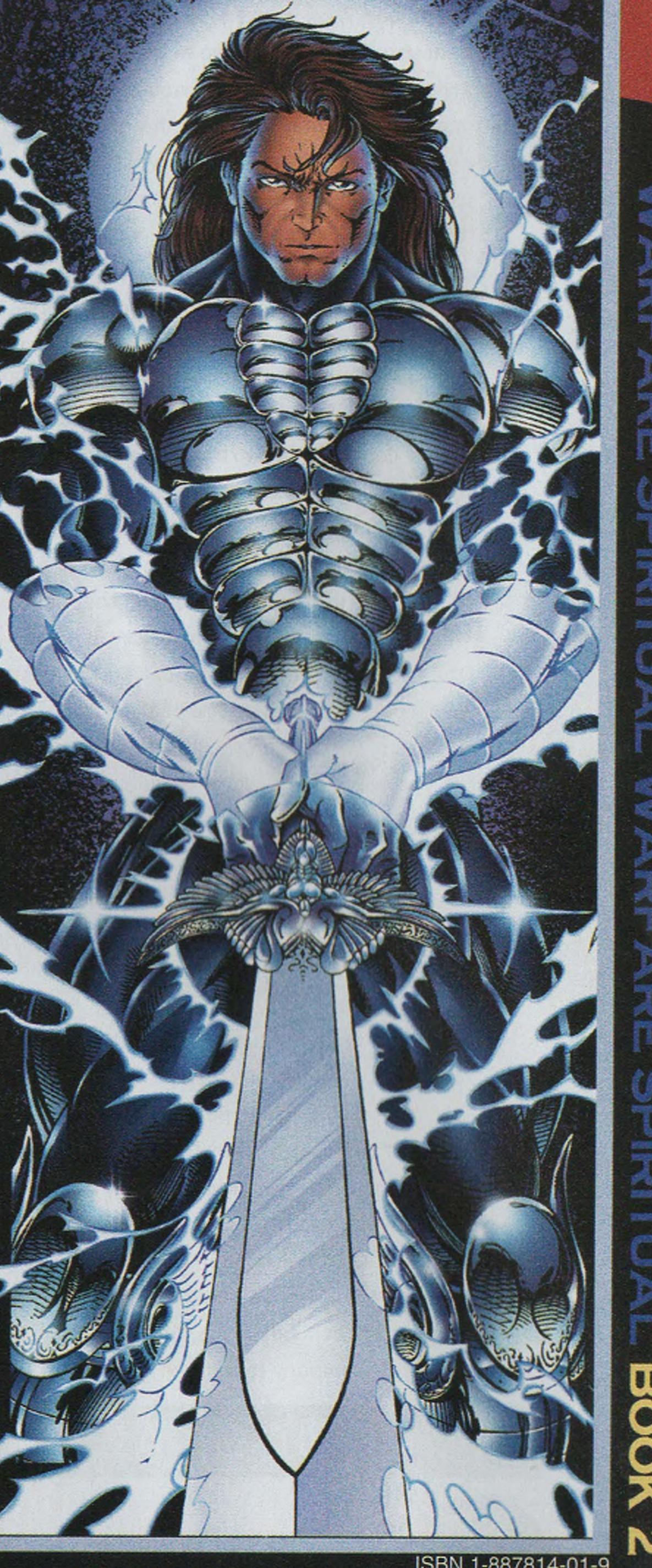
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rap/club reporters Worcester, MA Sunday 4PM WITR 89.7FM Rochester, NY Friday 10PM **WUFM** 88.7FM Columbus, OH

Saturday 7PM

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STUDIOS ISSUES 1-4---



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hanksgiving. Christmas. New Year's Day. That glorious trifecta of holidays that reminds us: 1) To appreciate the many gifts God has given us 2) To celebrate, in particular, that day of days, when the One who grants us all these blessings was born, and 3) To look forward to a new year of laboring, within the confines of our humanity, to create a better life for those around us. Wonderful stuff.

It's in that context that I bang the keyboard at 7ball for the very first time. In the event that there are a few of you that haven't seen my name plastered all over the place, I'll tell you something of the bumpy road which led me to 7ball. Just prior to joining this great staff, I spent over a dozen years working with CCM Communications, where in addition to CCM Online, you probably saw my byline in CCM Magazine as author of the Rock/Alternative column or on the Album Review page of The CCM Update.

I first crossed paths with 7ball's illustrious editor-inchief a number of years back, when Chris and I both worked for a radio show called "Crosswalk." CsW and myself also toiled for a season in the vineyards of (Harvest Rock) Syndicate, a delightful

MOSH

SPEAKS ...

mag that might be considered the mother, or at least the cousin, of 7ball. I also had the opportunity to work at a ground-breaking magazine called Harmony, which was one of the first attempts at gaining national distribution for a publication committed to contemporary Christian music.

I've been at nearly every

Cornerstone Festival over the years, and many of you have shared your opinions-both positive and negative-with me, and you've given me the grace to pontificate on a variety of subjects. Hence the Vatican-esque nickname, "Father Mosh."

Ancient history you say? Maybe so. But when I first became enthusiastic about Christian rock music, it didn't even have a name, an industry hadn't yet sprung up around it, and there were no amazing rags like 7ball to fill you in on what was happening. The one thing everyone who loved this music had in common was passion. The music was new, fresh, exciting, and we want-

Hall january / felinary 1997

ed to tell everyone about it, in whatever way we could manage-at work, at school, through youth groups or just hanging with our friends. From what I can see, that's still the most effective way of spreading the word, and 7ball wants to help you do that.

But enough "blah blah"-despite the name of the column. Even as recently as a few weeks ago, I would never have imagined that I would have the opportunity to be the editor of a magazine, much less the very one which covers my favorite music-and appar-

> ently, yours as well. But here I am, staring at the new year mentioned above, with a whole new stack of challenges.

> On the surface, it looks simple. Modern rock continues to experience exponential growth. It's still a young enough field that artists like Supertones and Seven Day Jesus can explode, virtually overnight, and established bands like Plankeye and MxPx can command ever larger box office and album sales.

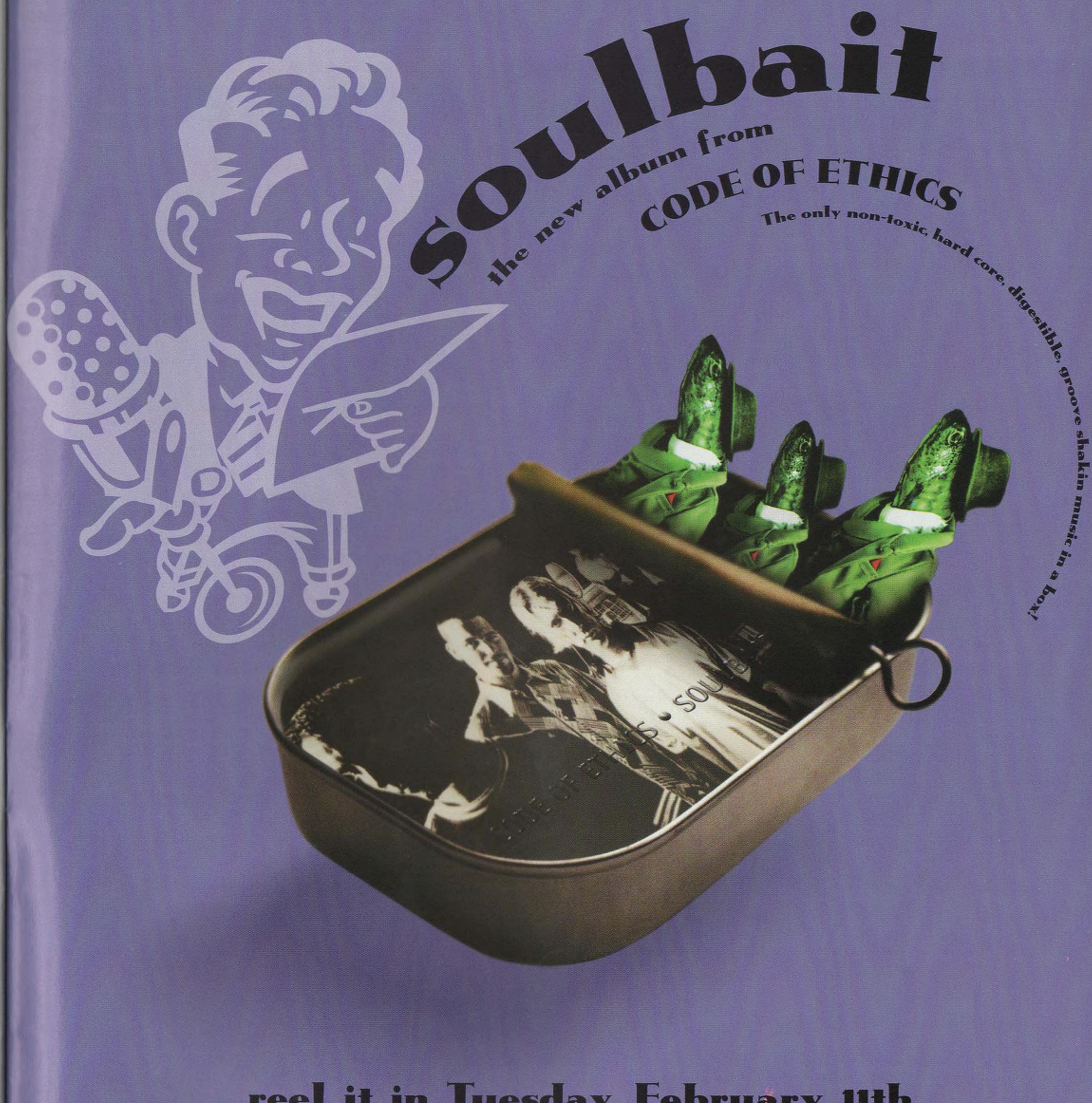
> However the future of the music, 7ball magazine, and yes, my salary, is tied to the future-and artists who are on the cusp of breaking out. Just a few of the artists fitting that description you'll be reading about in these pages include Smalltown Poets, Burlap to Cashmere, Dryve and Rainchildren.

And what a year 1997 will be! The engineers at 7ball Research and Development are already plotting our presence at a number of this year's major musical events, including festivals such as Jesus Northwest, Ichythus, Cornerstone, Creation-and possibly one of our own! Be sure to introduce yourself to the professors from 7ball R&D and let us know what you think of our little mag. We'll be happy to tell you how you can use 7ball to let your friends know that modern Christian rock is the best tuneage on the planet. We depend on you, the 7ball army, to keep this company rocking.

BY. BRUCE. A. BROWN







reel it in Tuesday, February 11th

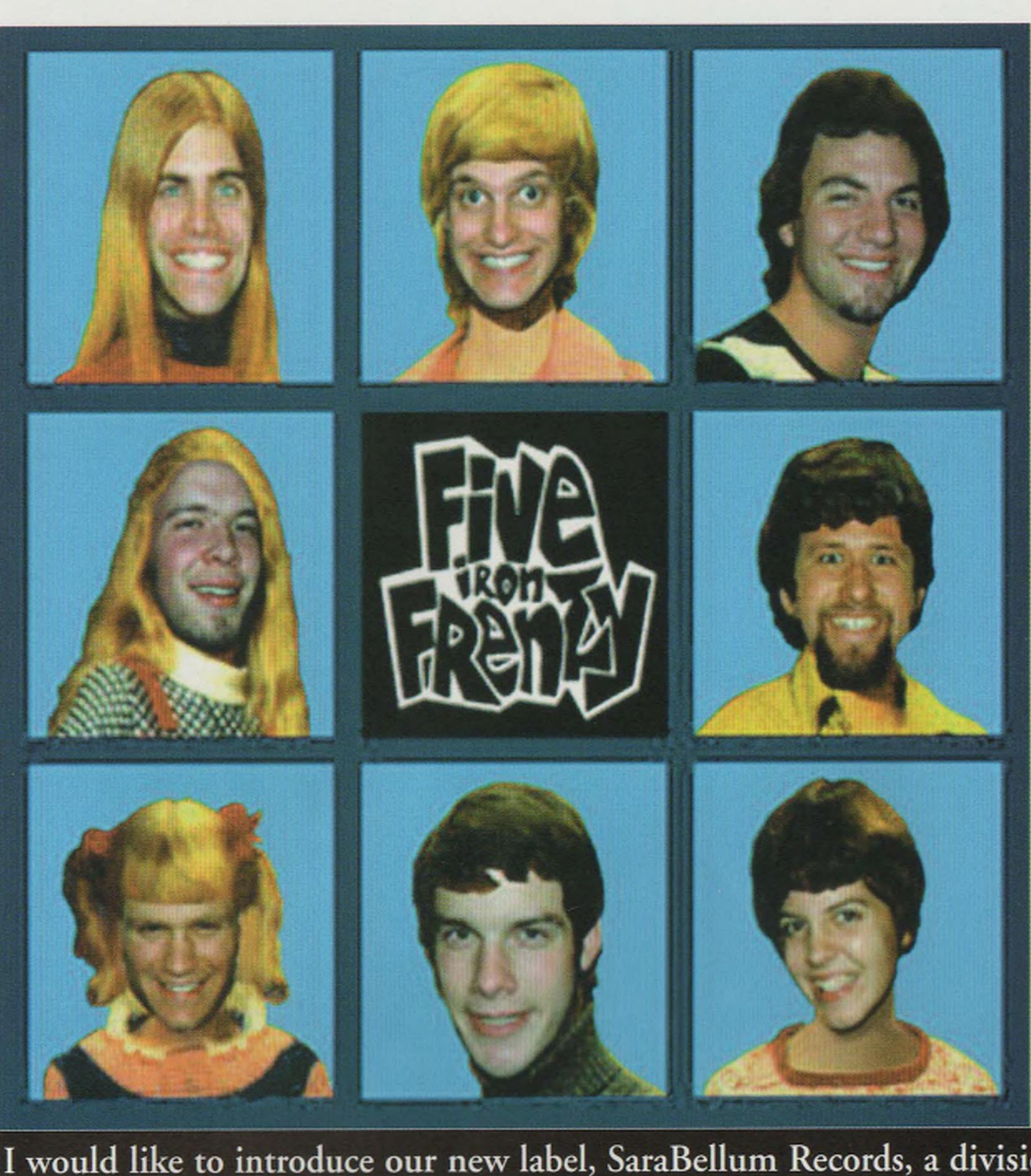
On tour with the Newsboys





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fun for the whole family Guitars, Horns, Dancing, Laughter, Wacky, Zany, Fun, Ska, Punk, -

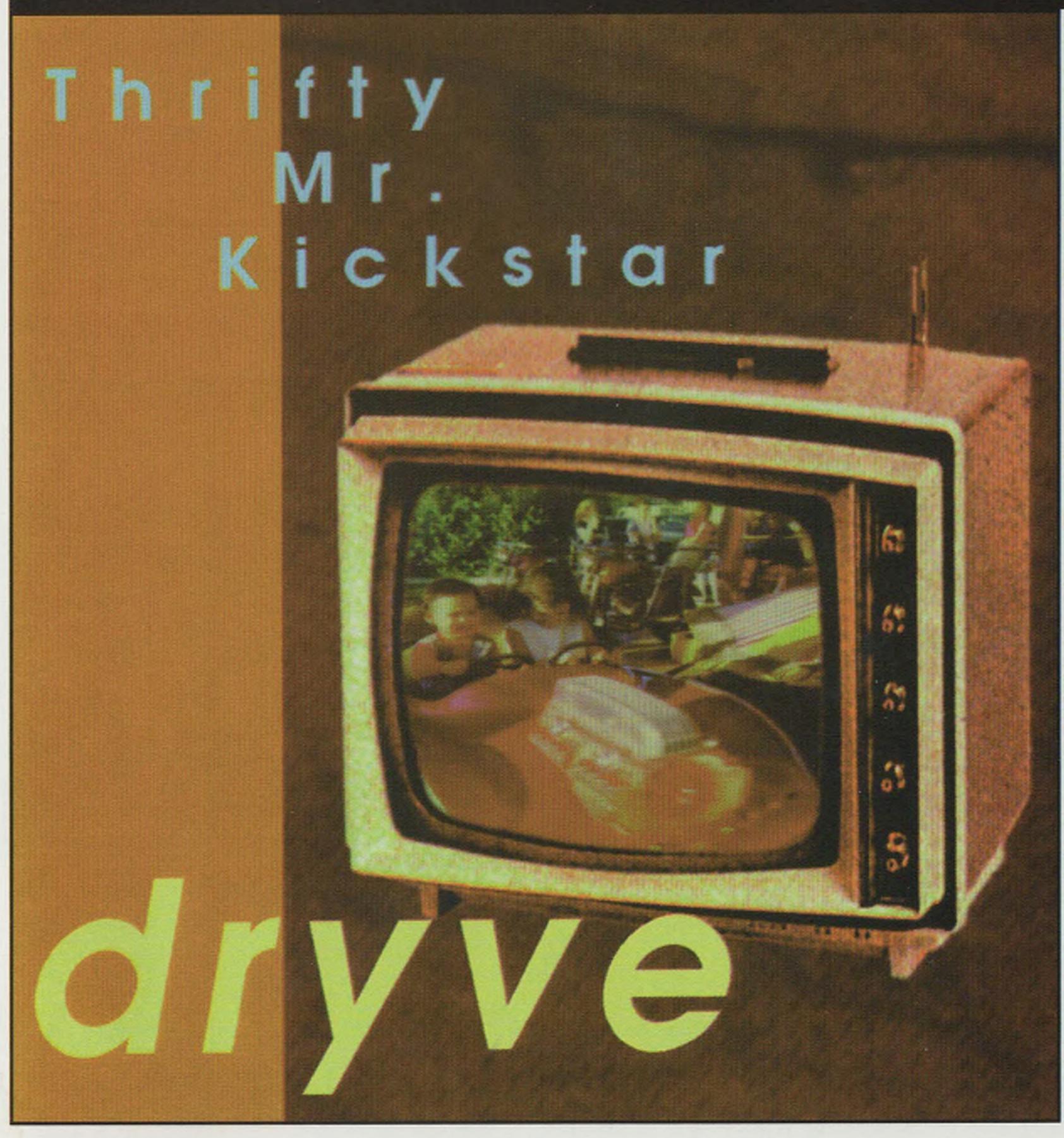
"Like Carman with a horn section"
Señor JJ Placencio





I would like to introduce our new label, SaraBellum Records, a division of 5 Minute Walk Records. Our bands include Dryve (Jan. 28th) Dime Store Prophets (April '97) and Black Eyed Sceva (May '97) SaraBellum Records' goal is to take the hope of the gospel to colleges, clubs, and Cracker Barrels. Please keep us in your prayers. -Frank Tate

"LOVE GOD, LOVE OTHERS, TAKE TIME TO LISTEN"



Sarabellum

A division of 5 Minute Walk

This album is hard to describe without making a few comparisons, which most bands try to stay away from.

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on tour april '97 with Sixpence & Black Eyed Sceva